

Republican opposition to repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” has stiffened since their victory in mid-term elections last week, dimming prospects for action in Congress. John McCain, the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, pictured on November 2, once spoke in favor of repeal but has shifted position since facing a sharp challenge from the right within his own party in Arizona.

DOJ asks high court not to touch gay military ban

Supreme Court to keep the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy on gays in the military in place while a federal appeals court considers the issue.

The administration filed court papers Wednesday in defense of an appeals court order that allowed “don’t ask, don’t tell” to go back into effect after a federal judge declared it unconstitutional and barred its enforcement. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco is reviewing the administration’s appeal. □

Thousands of UK students protest tuition fees hike



Student protestors burn a banner outside Millbank, the headquarters of Britain’s ruling Conservative Party, during a protest in London, Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010.

Associated Press

GILLIAN SMITH
JILL LAWLESS

LONDON (AP) — Tens of thousands of students marched through London on Wednesday against plans to triple university tuition fees, and violence erupted as a minority battled police and trashed a building containing the headquarters of the governing Conservative Party. Organizers said 50,000 students, lecturers and supporters demonstrated against plans to raise the cost of studying at a university to 9,000 pounds (\$14,000) a year — three times the current rate — in the largest street protest yet against the government’s sweeping austerity measures.

Continued on Page A12

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Page B12

Deficit panel leaders' plan curbs Social Security



WASHINGTON – The leaders of President Barack Obama's bipartisan deficit commission launched a daring assault on mushrooming federal deficits on Wednesday, proposing reducing annual cost-of-living increases for Social Security, gradually raising the retirement age to 69 and taking aim at popular tax breaks such as the mortgage interest deduction.

As part of a proposal to wrestle \$1-trillion-plus deficits under control, their plan would also curb the growth of Medicare. It came a week after voters put

Republicans back in charge of the House and told Washington that the government is too big. However, the plan by Chairman Erskine Bowles and former Sen. Alan Simpson, the co-chairman, doesn't look like it can win the support from 14 commission members that is needed to force a debate in Congress. Bowles is a Democrat and was former President Bill Clinton's White House chief of staff. Simpson is a Wyoming Republican. The Social Security proposal would change the inflation measurement used to calculate

cost-of-living adjustments for program benefits, reducing annual increases. It will almost certainly draw opposition from advocates for seniors, who are already upset that there will be no increase for 2011, the second straight year without a raise.

The plan would also raise the regular Social Security retirement age to 68 in about 2050 and to 69 in 2075. The full retirement age for those retiring now is 66. For those born in 1960 or after, the full retirement age is now 67.

Better-off beneficiaries would receive smaller Social Security payments than those in lower earning brackets under the proposal.

The commission is supposed to report a deficit-cutting plan on Dec. 1, but panel members are unsure at best whether they'll be able to agree on anything approaching Obama's goal of cutting the deficit to about 3 percent of the size of the gross domestic product.

Building the needed support of 14 of its 18 members will be difficult. Cuts to Social Security and Medicare are making some liberals on the panel recoil. And conservative Republicans are having difficulty with the options suggested for raising taxes. The plan also calls for cuts in farm subsidies, foreign aid and the Pentagon's budget.

"This is not a proposal I could support," said panel member Rep. Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill. "On Medicare and Social Security in particular, there are proposals that I could not support."

Other proposals by Bowles and Simpson include increasing the gas tax by 15 cents a gallon to fund transportation programs. They also are proposing a fundamental rewrite of the tax code, though they didn't offer a specific plan.

They did not specifically call for eliminating or scaling back the popular mortgage

tax deduction, but suggested such an option be seriously considered.

The plan released by Bowles is only a proposal put forth by him and Simpson. Members of the commission will resume debate on it later Wednesday and next week in a long-shot bid to reach a compromise.

The release of the proposal comes just a week after midterm elections that gave Republicans the House majority and increased their numbers in the Senate. During the campaign, neither political party talked of spending cuts of the magnitude proposed by Bowles, with Republicans simply proposing \$100 million in cuts to domestic programs passed each year by Congress. "It's a very provocative proposal," said a Republican member of the deficit commission, Rep. Jeb Hensarling of Texas.

"Some of it I like. Some of it disturbs me. And some of it I've got to study." □



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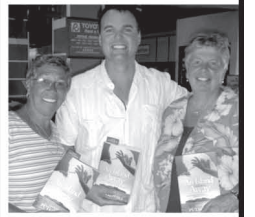
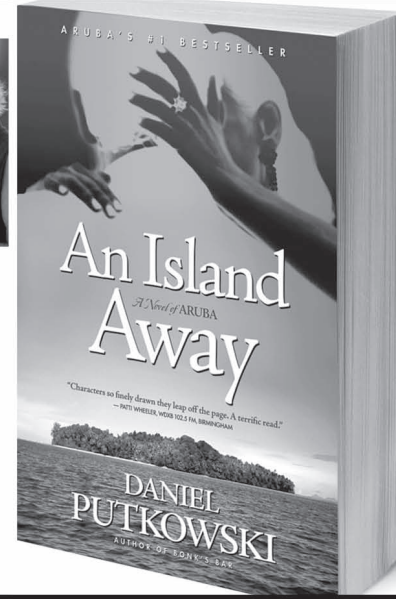
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Slow tow home for thousands on disabled ship

SAN DIEGO — Two tugboats slowly pulled a disabled cruise ship with nearly 4,500 passengers and crew toward San Diego on Wednesday.

The 952-foot Carnival Splendor crept into cell phone range and the onboard phone system started working on a limited basis, allowing passengers mostly cut off from communication since an engine fire Monday to finally reach their loved ones.

Officials said the ship could arrive in San Diego as early as mid-day Thursday.

Among those making calls was David Zambrano, who phoned his employer, Denver TV station 9NEWS, to describe what was happening on the ship. He said people were trying to keep their spirits up by singing, socializing and playing cards.

The ship's bars, casinos, pools and the upper deck were closed. Rooms in the interior of the ship were pitch black and passengers propped open their doors to let in air and emergency lighting from the hallways. "So really, all we're doing is just kind of hanging out on a boat waiting for the next mealtime," Zambrano said.

Mealtime requires a two-hour wait for cold food. Passengers have been subsisting on Spam,

Pop Tarts and canned crabmeat flown in by Navy helicopters.

"It's almost like a diet cruise because we've been eating salads and fruit and small sandwiches," Zambrano said. "It's nothing like anyone expected, no."

The Splendor left Long Beach on Sunday for a seven-day trip to the Mexican Riviera.

On Wednesday, it was 125 miles south of San Diego and was expected to arrive Thursday afternoon or evening if the weather remained good, U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Rick Foster said. No storms were forecast.

The journey hit more glitches when a second tugboat sent to help the first was forced to turn back because it wasn't powerful enough, and a third was hooked up Wednesday morning and pulling with no problem, Coast Guard officials said.

Carnival first planned to haul the ship to the Mexican port of Ensenada, not far from a movie studio complex used to film "Titanic," and bus passengers to the U.S. But the cruise line decided they would be more comfortable on board, spokesman Vance Gulliksen said.

Zambrano said passengers were overjoyed to hear they were heading straight back to California and wouldn't



have to go through the tedious customs process at the border.

"When they said they were towing us to San Diego instead of Ensenada, the cheer could be heard all the way around the boat," he said. "Everybody was screaming and then every time the rescue boat shows up, people run to the side and they cheer and they wave and they take pictures."

The ship was 200 miles south of San Diego and about 44 miles off shore when the engine room fire killed its power.

No one was hurt, but those on board were left without air conditioning, hot water or Internet service. Most telephone service also was out.

The ship's auxiliary power

allowed for working toilets and cold water, Gulliksen said.

The U.S. Navy resupplied the ship on Tuesday with thousands of pounds of food and other supplies ferried by helicopter from the USS Ronald Reagan, an aircraft carrier diverted from maneuvers nearby. Passengers were being entertained with acoustic music, board games, dancing, trivia contests and even a scavenger hunt for children, Gulliksen said.

"Overall, generally, the mood on the ship is good," he said. "The passengers have been very understanding."

Carnival spokeswoman Joyce Oliva said the ship's command is able to communicate with outsiders

on a backup system.

The situation will be costly for Miami-based Carnival Corp., which is refunding passengers, offering vouchers for future cruises and may have to dry dock the ship if the damage is extensive.

"We know this has been an extremely trying situation for our guests and we sincerely thank them for their patience," Carnival President and CEO Gerry Cahill said in a statement.

The last major cruise accident was in 2007 when a ship with more than 1,500 people sank after hitting rocks near the Aegean island of Santorini, Mathisen said. Two French tourists died.

In May, a machine room fire in a cruise ship off the coast of Norway forced off the 607 people on board. □

Risks grow for those whose lives straddle border



EL PASO, Texas — Eder Diaz and Manuel Acosta were Americans whose lives straddled the border, business students attending classes at the University of Texas at El Paso but living in Ciudad Juarez amid family and friends. They had been on their campus, a peaceful enclave of grassy plazas flanked by breathtaking desert mountains, just hours before they were

gunned down last week in Juarez, their car riddled with bullets as they headed home. Commuting from Mexico to the United States was as natural to them as taking the Holland Tunnel from New Jersey into New York. It's a life many border residents continue to embrace even as the death toll from the drug war in Mexico continues to rise. Six Americans were killed in

Juarez last week alone, and the U.S. State Department says more than 80 Americans have been killed this year in Chihuahua, the state where Juarez is located. That's already more than the 79 homicides of U.S. citizens in all of Mexico in 2009. Roughly 1,400 of UTEP's 22,000 students live in Juarez and cross the border to go to class, even though many are Americans who could live in safety on U.S. soil. One is Ruben Tarango, a 21-year-old sophomore who was born in El Paso but lives with his parents and sister in Juarez. "I was born here. I'm an American. But really I'm Mexican," Tarango said. "I've got my whole life in Juarez." The international business major rides a bus to the border, walks across the bridge over the Rio Grande, then hops another bus to campus, a process that takes 45 minutes and would be longer if

Tarango did not use the faster-moving immigration lines for Americans. Students who drive across the border daily say they often must endure lines of an hour or more. Tarango was mugged outside his family's home last year but still says he'd rather reside in Juarez than El Paso. Even the deaths of Diaz and Acosta haven't changed his mind. "If you aren't caught up in bad things, you'll be OK," Tarango said. "Of course, they weren't doing anything wrong. But it was just their destiny, their bad luck." Acosta, 25, had been on pace to graduate in May with a computer information systems degree from the College of Business Administration. Diaz, 23, had just declared his major international business and dreamed of becoming a Fortune 500 CEO. On Monday, students gathered for a campus memorial service, some wearing black

and others just happening by in jeans and Texas Longhorns T-shirts. Even casual observers fought back tears. Diaz's father, Armando Diaz Marinelarena, said he had urged his son to leave Juarez to go to school in San Antonio, where he had a sister, or Las Cruces, New Mexico, with his brother. "He said, 'No,'" Diaz Marinelarena said, his voice cracking. "He said, 'I'm happy here, close to you.'" Some Americans in El Paso are making fewer trips south because of the violence. Crista Arteaga, a 19-year-old UTEP nursing student, lived in both Juarez and Texas until two years ago, when she started returning to Mexico only on weekends. "They've started killing people who aren't to blame, who have nothing to do with drug dealers," she said. "It's almost like you hear nothing but gunshots in Juarez."

Scarcity of peyote means hard times for dealers



RIO GRANDE CITY, Texas — When the state of Texas licensed him as a peyote distributor in 1990, Mauro Morales put a sign in his front yard with his name and phone number: "Peyote Dealer. Buy or Sell Peyote." His neighbors balked, saying calling so much attention to his trade had to be against the law. "So I called Austin and said, 'I think everything's legal. I've got the paperwork. Can't I put up a sign?'" Morales recalled. Twenty years later, the sign still stands, but it's harder than ever for Morales to make a living. The hallucinogenic cactus is becoming more difficult to find because

many ranchers have stopped allowing peyote harvesters on their land, preferring to plow the grayish-green plant under so cattle can graze. Others now lease their property to deer hunters or oil and gas companies. The result is over-harvesting of remaining stocks, making peyote even more scarce. "Things are kind of getting slower every year," said Morales, who is one of just three Americans currently licensed to sell peyote, which grows wild in four Texas counties along the border with Mexico. Peyote is illegal under federal law, except for use in some

American Indian religious ceremonies. Since the mid-1970s, the state has licensed a small number of people to sell it to members of the Native American Church. California voters recently rejected a proposal to legalize marijuana for recreational use, and a drug war threatens to tear Mexico apart. But Morales says his business is simple and honest. "I try to stay out of problems," he said. "I've been doing it too long." Morales, 67, has seven employees who search for peyote plants to harvest their "buttons," small round growths that contain the mind-altering juice mescaline, which produces a dreamlike delirium for up to 12 hours. Users generally chew on the buttons, smoke them or boil them in water to make a drug-infused tea. The number of buttons it takes to feel psychedelic effects varies greatly by person and the potency of individual plants. Morales' crews now bring in about 3,000 buttons per day, but even four years ago, it was 10,000. He began harvesting

peyote at 14, when American Indian elders taught him to cut the buttons without harming the roots. Back then, each button could be sold to distributors for a nickel, but had to be at least as large as a half dollar. Now Morales pays his harvesters 15 cents per button, no matter the size. "There are no more half dollar-sizes around," he said. New peyote plants look a bit like oversized green molars. Even fully grown plants rarely get larger than an orange. Known as "Peyoteros," the peyote distributors use information provided by families in the area to hunt the cactus down, and they know all roads and trails by heart. Prime spots are usually hillsides that are a bit rocky and have no sand in the soil. The intense heat means harvesters can often search only until early afternoon and must contend with the occasional rattlesnake. Texas Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Tela Mange said peyote distributors sold more than 1.5 million buttons worth approximately

\$483,000 last year, up from nearly 1.48 million buttons with a value of \$471,000 in 2008. But that's down sharply from the mid-1990s, when distributors sold more than 2.3 million buttons, according to Morales and another licensed peyote dealer, Salvador Johnson. Mange said the number of licensed distributors in Texas has declined as the job has gotten harder. Experts have noticed the same changes. "The cactus grows slowly, and the peyoteros are forced to go back too early and harvest re-growth buttons," said Martin Terry, a biology professor at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas. He co-founded the Cactus Conservation Institute to safeguard several species, including peyote. Harvesters once routinely uncovered 100- to 150-year-old plants but now usually settle for cacti that are less than five years old, said Johnson, who deals peyote in Mirando City, about 90 miles north of Rio Grande City, otherwise known for its thriving mesquite tree population. □

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Obama to world leaders: Must help on economy, too

By BEN FELLER,

AP White House Correspondent
SEOUL, South Korea – Under worldwide pressure, President Barack Obama told global leaders Wednesday the burden is on them as well as the U.S. to fix trade-stifling imbalances and currency disputes that imperil economic recoveries everywhere. The president promised the United States would do its part but declared “the world is looking to us to work together.”

On the eve of an economic summit, Obama landed in Seoul hoping to close an elusive trade deal with South Korea, the kind that could potentially mean jobs and markets for frustrated businesses and workers back home. Yet the deal was still in the balance in the last hours, slowed by U.S. demands over South Korea's auto trade and its market for American beef. Obama was also to make his economic case directly to Chinese President Hu Jintao after lavishing attention on China's rising rival, India, for three days. The U.S. and China enjoy an economic partnership but continue to clash over currency, with the U.S. contending that China's undervalued yuan gives it an unfair edge in the flow of exports and imports.

The U.S. president made the point again in a letter to fellow leaders gathered here for the G-20 summit of established and emerging economies. Warning of unsustainable balance sheets, with some countries holding surpluses and other swimming in debt, Obama pushed for exchanges

rates based on the market and no more “undervaluing currencies for competitive purposes.”

In less than two years on the job, Obama has become a familiar face at such summits, a sign of the enormous global effort to contain and reverse economic erosion.

He shows up this time on the defensive about the recent \$600 billion intervention by the U.S. Federal Reserve, and weakened by a congressional midterm election that will give much greater power to the opposition Republican Party.

Obama's message is that the United States cannot be the world's consumer, propping up others by borrowing and spending. He is pitching for a balanced recovery across the globe — tougher to achieve when national interests collide. “The foundation for a strong and durable recovery will not materialize if American households stop saving and go back to spending based on borrowing,” the president wrote.

Ahead of his trip, the Federal Reserve announced plans to purchase \$600 billion in long-term government bonds to try to drive down interest rates, spur lending and boost the U.S. economy. Some other nations complain that gives American goods an unfair advantage in competition with theirs.

Already pressed about that once on his trip to Asia, Obama said the Federal Reserve acts independently, but he still threw support behind the action. “I will

say that the Fed's mandate, my mandate, is to grow our economy,” Obama said. “And that's not just good for the United States, that's good for the world as a whole.”

The president came into Seoul quietly on Wednesday night after his latest long flight across Asia, this one from Indonesia, where he had given a speech renewing his outreach to the Muslim world. His upcoming agenda is packed with economic sessions and one-on-one meetings, in South Korea through Friday and this weekend in Japan.

To honor America's Veterans Day, Obama will visit and praise troops Thursday at a U.S. Army garrison. He is also expected to draw a contrast between South Korea's booming progress and North Korea's punishing isolation since the Korean War 60 years ago. The United States keeps a presence of more than 28,000 troops in South Korea.

Obama's meeting with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, after which both will take questions from the media, will surely center on trade. Negotiators ended a third day of talks on the stalled trade deal Wednesday, offering no clues on possible progress.

At issue is a pact too slash tariffs and other barriers to trade, one that was signed in 2007 when previous administrations were in power. It remains unratified by lawmakers in both countries, and trade between the nations has slipped. The U.S. wants the deal to address an imbalance, and beef access to South Korea's market, before



President Barack Obama delivers the keynote speech at the University of Indonesia in Jakarta November 10, 2010.

submitting it to Congress. Obama will meet with Lee and German Chancellor Angela Merkel before the G-20 gatherings begin late in the day. No longer in the emergency mode of preventing economic collapse, the leaders are seeking ways to sustain reliable growth and speed up the creation of jobs for their people.

Obama defends the drastic actions the U.S. has taken on its own and with others to prevent further economic calamity, well aware of how anxious Americans are for new jobs and confidence.

Earlier Wednesday, Obama

was in Jakarta, the capital of the world's most populous Muslim nation, issuing a call for trust and cooperation. He lived in Indonesia as a boy from 1967 to 1971 and found himself flooded with memories.

“Let me begin with a simple statement: Indonesia is part of me,” he said in Indonesian language, drawing cheers from the audience of more than 6,000 mostly young people at the University of Indonesia. Obama took care in his remarks to note that he is Christian; back home in the U.S., he continues to fight erroneous perceptions that he is Muslim. □



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This image made from surveillance video released by the Riverside Police Department Monday, Nov. 8, 2010, shows a man authorities say they believe is the gunman suspected of fatally shooting Riverside police officer Ryan Bonaminio earlier in the day.

(AP Photo/Riverside Police Department)

By AMY TAXIN,
Associated Press

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — A police officer was likely shot to death with his own gun as he struggled with a suspected truck thief, police said Wednesday after arresting a career criminal for the weekend attack.

“There’s a good possibility” that Officer Ryan Bonaminio was shot with his own weapon, Detective Ron Sanfilippo said during a news conference.

The gun was found during a search Wednesday morning following Tuesday night’s arrest, he said.

Police said that Officer Ryan Bonaminio may have been disarmed after pulling over the driver of a stolen big-rig cab on Sunday night. The suspect had jumped from the truck and ran into a park with the 27-year-old Bonaminio chasing him on foot when the officer was shot.

The gun may have been fired at least three times, Sanfilippo said but declined to discuss other details.

The killer fled after the shooting.

Police: Slain CA officer likely shot with own gun

During the manhunt, Riverside officers staffed a phone bank around the clock that took calls from around the state, Sanfilippo said. Also, some \$400,000 in rewards were offered for information.

However, it was a fingerprint found in the abandoned truck cab that finally identified the suspect, Sanfilippo said. More than a dozen officers, including members of the Inland Regional Apprehension Team, and FBI agents descended on the Riverside Target shopping center at about 8 p.m. Tuesday and arrested Earl Ellis Green, a 44-year-old who was paroled in February 2009 and lived in nearby Rubidoux, police said.

After questioning by homicide detectives, Green was booked into the Robert Presley Detention Center for investigation of murder and a parole violation. Arraignment was scheduled for Monday, though the district attorney’s office said he had not yet been charged. Green was with his girlfriend, who was questioned and released, Sanfilippo said.

Green’s criminal history dating back to at least 1990 and he has served jail time for vehicle theft, receiving stolen property and battery on a police officer, court records show. He was sentenced to three years in prison in 2007 for committing vandalism that caused more than \$400 in damage.

“He knew that he was wanted for what he did. He was also a parolee at large, so I believe he was on the run,” Sanfilippo said. “He may not have been able to get out of the area but he was well aware that police were looking for him.”

A cousin, Eddie Green Jr., told KABC-TV that his relative “has to be disturbed” and had tried to kill an uncle on Saturday, a day before the police officer’s killing.

“He just went on a rampage, tried to run him over, tried to stab him,” Eddie Green Jr. said. Police were called to the scene but said it was a civil matter, he said. However, Sanfilippo said he was unaware of the incident. □



Elizabeth Smart, right, her mother Lois Smart, center, and father Ed Smart, left, leave the Frank E. Moss Federal Courthouse Monday, Nov. 8, 2010, in Salt Lake City. Opening arguments in the Brian David Mitchell trial relating to the kidnapping of Elizabeth Smart in 2002 resumed in Salt Lake City’s U.S. District Court Monday after a three-judge panel of the Federal Appeals Court stopped the trial last Thursday in a motion to have it moved out of Utah.

(AP Photo/Steve C. Wilson)

By JENNIFER DOBNER,
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — The man accused of abducting Elizabeth Smart was a crude, vulgar, self-serving person who used religion to justify his actions, including her kidnapping and rape, she told jurors on her third and final day of testimony.

“He was his number one priority, followed by sex, drugs and alcohol, but he used religion in all of those aspects to justify everything,” Smart said in a clear voice.

She finished her testimony Wednesday morning after just 15 minutes of cross-examination by a defense lawyer for Brian David Mitchell, an itinerant street preacher accused of taking her from home knifepoint on June 5, 2002, when

Elizabeth Smart finishes Utah trial testimony

she was 14.

Mitchell, 57, is charged in federal court with kidnapping and unlawful transportation of a minor across state lines. If convicted, he faces a life sentence.

Mitchell’s defense attorneys contend he suffers from an escalating mental illness and holds extreme religious beliefs that lead him to think he is directed by God.

Smart gave a spirited rejection of that contention on the stand Wednesday, calling Mitchell a hypocrite.

“Nine months of living with him and seeing him proclaim that he was God’s servant and called to do God’s work and everything he did to me and my family is something that I know that God would not tell somebody to do,” she said. “God would never tell someone to kidnap her at knifepoint from their bed, from her sister’s side ... never continue to rape her and sexually abuse her.”

Now 23, Smart was found in March 2003 with Mitchell.

In previous testimony, she said during those nine months that she endured almost daily rapes and was forced to drink alcohol, use drugs and view pornography.

On the night of her kidnapping, Smart said Mitchell led her to a mountainside camp above Salt Lake City, where she was stripped of her red pajamas and dressed in white robes before being forced to marry him in a quickie ceremony Mitchell performed himself.

Mitchell also repeatedly threatened that Smart, her family, or anyone who tried to help her would be killed if she ever tried to escape.

Smart said she did reach out for help on one of the trips she made with Mitchell and his wife at the time, Wanda Eileen Barzee, from their campsite. □



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NOORD - Aruba Trading Company continues the tradition and celebrates once more the much anticipated arrival of the Beaujolais Nouveau.

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where world renowned wine distributors around the world receive and taste the first bottles of this exquisite wine, only available in limited quantities on the 3rd week of the month of November.

Beaujolais nouveau is a red wine made from Gamay grapes produced in the Beaujolais region of France. It is the most popular vin de primeur, fermented for just a few weeks then officially released on the third Thursday of November.

This year, Aruba Trading Company, official distributor of Georges Duboeuf wines

in Aruba, which includes the Beaujolais nouveau, is celebrating this tradition on November 18th, 2010 in Papiamento Restaurant, that with its historic, elegant and vibrant settings and its tropical gardens will delight all present with a Food Fair of succulent dishes, specially prepared to compliment the “Beaujolais Nouveau 2010”.

The stakes are high for this year’s harvest and its arrival. Aruba Trading Company has always presented the Beaujolais Nouveau with amazing shows and intricate productions all leading up to a magnificent arrival and

opening of the first bottle of Beaujolais Nouveau. This year will be no different and preparations are in place to surprise all guests once again.

Reserve your ticket right now at Aruba Trading Company for the arrival of the “Beaujolais Nouveau 2010” and taste for yourself this years’ harvest complimented by the decadent dishes offered by Papiamento Restaurant that will delight your taste buds. Entrance is only \$75,- per person and tickets are available at Aruba Trading Company. □

Celebrating Diwali at Hyatt Ballroom

Indian Association of Aruba installs new board



PALM BEACH - The Indian Association of Aruba recently celebrated its New Year called Diwali at Hyatt Ballroom. Children of the community were especially dressed up to go upstage and perform cultural dances and songs both from Bolloywood and Hollywood. The Association also changed hands to a new Board headed by Prakash Gupta. Officebearers of the Association are as under: Prakash Gupta : President, Satish Daryanani: Vice – President,

Bharat Shrivastava: Secretary, Kishan Bhatia: Treasurer, Rajesh Gianchandani: Director, Haresh Sadarangani: Director, Niki Shetty: Director, Immediate past president: Mr. Gopal Sawilani.

The new Board thanked the past presidents of the Association and also the immediate past Board for their rich contribution and guidance in the past years. The pictures show ambience from the occasion. □





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Roy & Debra Samuels honored at the Occidental Grand Aruba Resort



PALM BEACH - Recently at the Occidental Grand Resort vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more

annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority Associate Ricardo Croes

at the Occidental Grand Resort, where they call their home away from home. Roy & Debra Samuels were honored as Distinguished Visitors after visiting Aruba for 13 years. Pictured: ATA Rep. Ricardo Croes together with Roy & Debra and staff from the Occidental Grand Resort. □

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At the Marriott Stellaris International Beach Tennis Event

High expectations for local beach tennis talents



HADICURARI - Expectations are high for our local players in the upcoming Marriott Stellaris International Beach Tennis Event, which is held from November 18 – 21 at MooMba Beach. With weekly competitions ensuring an ever-increasing level of play, all categories have improved a lot during the past two years. Especially Pro Ladies Marieke Buuts and Claire Ros-Lysen and Tessel Huizinga and Manon van Zwieten. have been training hard: they will be getting some terrific international opposition from abroad. Our Pro Men

Dennis Schoneveld and Bertrand Coulet and Aksel Samardzic and Jochem Ros face even more hardened opponents and a much more extensive schedule, so more matches to win. With the current beach tennis world top players on Aruba, their chances to win are slim, though.

On Thursday, November 18 the tournament starts off with singles; on Friday evening the Nations Cup, a pitching of national teams, is held simultaneously with all the other categories, who are playing either Mixed Doubles or Doubles. Fun Ladies Barbara Franke and Mignon Aal

have impressed in the Fun Category as did Tino Ommering and Thomas Tenret. Top Intermediate Men Jossy Mansur and Louis Posner hope to do well too, as do Margot Goeyers and Chantal Valize. In the Advance Category it is Natasha Rudolphus and Michelle Boset who are leading the local pack together with Edwin Hekmand and JD Douglas.

Registration for the tournament is now open. Just surf to www.arubabeachtennis.com



and get into the game. The registration fee for members is US \$ 20.--; non-members pay US \$ 25.-. One will receive a great event tee-shirt, a BBQ and an incredible tournament filled with action.

Sponsors of the event are Marriott Stellaris Casino, Amstel Bright, Alno Kitchen, Deloitte, Aruba Aloe, Professional Pest Control, Company 81,

The Entertainment Group, Now, Island Temptation, Holiday Inn, ISA, ATA, AMC Unicon, Zen Design, AWA, Bacardi Mojito and Powerade. The Marriott Stellaris International Beach Tennis Event has a US \$ 10,000.—purse; it has been rated GI Grade, the highest recognition of the World Cup tour, together with New York and Rome. □

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National Beach and Coastal Cleanup. This takes place on Saturday 13 November, from 8 am until 11:30 am. This will be the 9th year that it is organized by the Ahata



environmental committee. Anyone that wants to help keep Aruba clean is welcome to participate.

If you want to form a group with your colleagues, friends, family, that is also possible and Ahata will do its best to assign your group at one specific beach or coastal area. The coast/cove we will be cleaning are Havana Beach through Wilhelmina Park, Parke Arikok, California Dunes, Wariruri, Baby Beach/Nanky Country Club, Bachelors Beach, Boca Grandi, Zeewijk Beach, Mangel Halto, Santo Largo, between Bushiri Beach and Tamarijn Beach, Arashi, Anaboei, Bird Sanctuary. You will also receive latex gloves and AWA, Coca-Cola or Powerade but it's good to go prepared yourself as well. Become a volunteer for a morning and keep Aruba clean! ☐



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UK STUDENTS**Continued from Front Page**

As the march passed a high-rise building that houses Conservative headquarters, some protesters smashed windows as others lit a bonfire of placards outside the building.

Office workers were evacuated as several dozen demonstrators managed to get into the lobby, scattering furniture, smashing CCTV cameras, spraying graffiti and chanting "Tories Out," while outside police faced off against a crowd that occasionally hurled food, soda cans and placards.

"We are destroying the building just like they are destroying our chances of affording higher education," said Corin Parkin, 20, a student at London's City University. The violence appeared to be carried out by a small group as hundreds of others stood and watched. Anarchist symbols and the words "Tory scum" were spray-painted around the building, and black and red flags flew from atop an office block beside the 29-story Millbank Tower.

Rooftop protesters threw

down water, paper — and in one case a fire extinguisher, to boos from the crowd below.

Police said eight people, a mix of protesters and police officers, were taken to hospitals with minor injuries.

The Metropolitan Police said, "A small minority of protesters have taken it upon themselves to cause damage to property, whilst the vast majority have peacefully made their point."

Nearby, the headquarters of Britain's MI5 spy agency, Thames House, was sealed with heavy metal doors as police guarded the rear exits.

Organizers condemned the violence. Sally Hunt, general secretary of faculty group the University and College Union, said "the actions of a minority, out of 50,000 people, is regrettable."

Elsewhere, protesters were peaceful but determined.

"I am here because it is important that students stand up and shout about what is going on," said Anna Tennant-Siren, a student at the University of Ulster in Coleraine. "Politicians don't seem to care," she said. "They should be taking money from people who earn seven-figure



British riot police try to keep student protestors out of Millbank, the headquarters of Britain's ruling Conservative Party, during a protest in London, Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010. Tens of thousands of students marched through London on Wednesday against plans to triple university tuition fees, and violence erupted as a minority battled police and trashed a building containing the headquarters of the governing Conservative Party.

Associated Press

salaries, not from students who don't have any money."

Frances O'Grady, of the Trades Union Congress, said the hike would make colleges "no-go zones for young people from ordinary backgrounds."

"This is about turning colleges and universities from learning institutions into finishing

schools for the rich," she said.

Britain's Liberal Democrats, who are part of the coalition government with the Conservatives, pledged during the country's election campaign to abolish fees.

Protest leaders said they would attempt to use recall powers to oust lawmakers

who break campaign promises on the issue.

The National Union of Students said it would try to recall legislators from the party who vote in favor on the hike. "We will not tolerate the previous generation passing on its debts to the next, nor will we pick up the bill to access a college and university education that was funded for them," said union President Aaron Porter.

While British tuition fees are modest compared to those at some U.S. colleges, British universities are public institutions. Opponents of the tuition increase have pointed out that Prime Minister David Cameron and other members of the government attended elite universities such as Oxford and Cambridge at a time when university education was free.

The previous Labour government of Prime Minister Tony Blair introduced the first fees for students soon after it was elected in 1997. Scotland abolished tuition fees in 2000, and in the rest of Britain the cost is capped at about 3,000 pounds (\$4,800) a year.

Prime Minister David Cameron's government plans to triple that and cut funding to universities as it strives to slash 81 billion pounds (\$128 billion) from public expenditure over the next four years. □



South Korean police officers jump into the Han river to patrol for possible terrorists' attacks for upcoming G20 Summit near its venue in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2010. South Korea's navy fired warning shots to chase away a North Korean fishing boat that crossed their disputed sea border early Wednesday, the Defense Ministry said, in the latest flareup of tension on the divided peninsula just days before the Group of 20 summit in Seoul.

Associated Press

HYUNG-JIN KIM**Associated Press**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A South Korean navy ship sank after colliding with a larger fishing boat, leaving one sailor dead and two missing, the military said Thursday.

The 150-ton navy vessel was returning to its base following a routine patrol mission Wednesday when it collided with a 270-ton South Korean fishing boat in waters northwest of the southern resort island of Jeju, a spokesman at the Joint Chiefs of Staff said. The cause of the collision wasn't immediately known.

Twenty-eight navy sailors were rescued, but one of them died while being treated at a hospital on the island. Two others were

S. Korean navy ship sinks after boat collision

missing, the spokesman said on condition of anonymity citing department policy.

Some of the injured sailors were being treated at a hospital, while others were to be sent back to their base, he said. Navy vessels and helicopters were searching for the missing crew.

Damage to the fishing boat wasn't severe, the spokesman said. It was not immediately known how many crew were aboard the fishing boat, but another Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesman said his office has not received any reports that any of them were injured.

The navy plans to conduct salvage operations on the sunken vessel.

The fishing boat sailed to Jeju Island after the collision, according to the first spokesman. The island, about an hour's flight from Seoul, is a popular honeymoon resort for South Koreans.

The collision occurred nearly eight months after a South Korean warship sank near the tense western sea border with North Korea. Forth-six sailors were killed and an international investigation blamed North Korea for torpedoing the vessel. North Korea denies any responsibility.

South Korea's military is on its highest alert ahead of a two-day gathering of leaders from the G-20 advanced and developing economies in Seoul. North Korea has a history of acting provocatively when world attention is focused on South Korea. The Korean peninsula officially remains in a state of war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty. □

UK police suggest Yemen bomb disarmed accidentally

SYLVIA HUI,

Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — British police released new details Wednesday about their discovery of a mail bomb bound from Yemen for the United States, suggesting they might have disarmed the bomb accidentally rather than by design.

Police also said forensic evidence showed the device was timed to be detonated six to seven hours after the UPS cargo aircraft carrying it left the U.K. — and that, had it not been removed during transit in Britain, it could have exploded over the East Coast of the U.S. That appeared at variance, however, with flight date information showing the plane was over Canada at that time. In a statement, Scotland Yard said explosives officers “disrupted” the explosive device during their initial examination when they took the printer cartridge — in which the bomb was hidden — out of a printer.

Authorities on both sides of the Atlantic have said they only narrowly thwarted last month’s plot, in which terrorists in Yemen hid two powerful bombs inside printers and shipped them aboard cargo planes to addresses in Chicago. The printer cartridges were filled with PETN, an industrial explosive that, when X-rayed, could resemble the cartridges’

ink powder.

The exact aim of the attack remains unclear, but a senior U.S. official has said that evidence pointed to a plot to blow up cargo planes inside the U.S. — either on runways or over American cities. In Washington, the White House said the British finding showed how serious the attack was.

But the new account raises questions about what exactly happened during the first confusing hours when authorities, alerted by intelligence, searched for the bombs.

On that day, British police initially said they found no explosives in the package that was shipped from Yemen by way of Cologne, Germany, and intercepted at central England’s East Midlands Airport. They then lifted a security cordon around the cargo depot building where the package had been examined. But hours later they put up the cordon again to look further for explosives when it emerged that a second mail bomb had been found in a cargo that had landed in Dubai.

But in Wednesday’s statement, police said they “disrupted” the bomb at about 2:40 a.m. EDT on Oct. 29 — before they announced that they had found no explosives. They also said Wednesday

that, had the cartridge not been removed, the bomb would have gone off at 5:30 a.m. EDT. Although British police said Wednesday that the bomb could have exploded over the eastern seaboard of the U.S., flight data tracking the flight showed that it was in Canadian airspace when authorities said it was timed to detonate. Data from Houston-based Flightaware showed that, at 5:30 a.m. EDT, UPS Flight 232 from East Midlands to Philadelphia was about 160 miles northwest of Quebec City. In Washington, White House spokesman Nicholas Shapiro said: “We greatly appreciate the highly professional nature of the U.K. investigation and the spirit of partnership with which U.K. authorities have pursued this matter.” He praised the efforts of intelligence and law enforcement professionals in the U.K., the UAE, Saudi Arabia and the United States, and said they would continue to work together “to address and counter the threat posed by al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula.” The Yemen-based al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula has claimed responsibility for the bombs and has vowed to send more explosives-packed parcels. □



This undated photo released by the Dubai Police via the state Emirates News Agency (WAM) on Saturday, Oct. 30, 2010, claims to show a computer printer and other contents of a package found onboard a cargo plane coming from Yemen, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Dubai police say the bomb, discovered in the ink cartridge of a computer printer in a shipment of air cargo from Yemen bound for the United States, contained the powerful explosive PETN and bore the hallmarks of al-Qaida.

Associated Press

Nigerian bomb suspect accused in another attack

BASHIR ADIGUN

Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — The man believed to have masterminded a car bombing that killed 12 people in Nigeria’s capital also allegedly wired another set of bombs that exploded earlier in the country’s oil-rich southern delta, an official said Wednesday.

By attempting to link Henry Okah to the March 15 bombing, authorities sought to further implicate him in recent violence claimed by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, the region’s main militant group. Okah faces terrorism charges in South Africa, where he now lives, over his role in October’s bombings in Nigeria’s capital, Abuja, and is scheduled to appear in a Johannesburg court

Friday for a bail hearing.

Marilyn Ogar, spokeswoman for the Nigeria’s State Security Service, said in a statement Wednesday that Okah flew to Nigeria in March to plan a car bomb attack in Warri, a city in the heart of the Niger Delta. The car bombs exploded March 15 outside a government building during a meeting organized by a newspaper to discuss a government amnesty offered to militants. Ogar said Okah returned to South Africa a day before the March bombing. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, also known by the acronym MEND, issued a warning to journalists about an hour before the Oct. 1 attacks, telling people to stay away from festivities at Eagle Square in Abuja. □

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Iraq's Christians terrorized by wave of bombings

BARBARA SURK
HAMID AHMED

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Suspected Sunni militants took aim again at Baghdad's dwindling Christian community, setting off a dozen roadside bombs Wednesday and sending terrified families into hiding behind a church where walls are still stained from blood from an attack nearly two weeks ago. Five people were killed and 20 were wounded in the bombings and mortar attacks that targeted Christians across the city, police and hospital officials said. Iraqi Christians

are already reeling after the earlier attack on a Sunday Mass service left 68 people dead, and many are now wondering whether it's time to leave their homeland.

At a house on the grounds of Our Lady of Salvation Church, Karim Patros Thomas was under no illusion that the community is under siege.

On Oct. 31, Thomas' brother-in-law bled to death on the church floor after militants stormed the building, shot congregants in the first row, held others hostage and then set off bombs when Iraqi forces came to the rescue. Then Wednesday morning,



An Iraqi policeman adjusts the blindfold on a suspected terrorist during a joint operation in al-Shaheed village in Kirkuk province, north of Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010. The man was detained during a sweep by Iraqi police and Iraqi Army soldiers of several villages thought to be insurgent havens. U.S. troops were on hand to advise and assist if necessary.

Associated Press

Israelifighterjetcrashes; two crew remain missing

JERUSALEM (AP) — An Israeli F-16I fighter jet crashed in a routine training flight in southern Israel late Wednesday and its two crew members remained missing, the military said.

Search and rescue teams were dispatched to the scene of the crash and an investigation has been launched into the cause of the accident.

The air force commander halted all training flights of Israel's F-16I squadrons. The families of the missing crewman have been notified.

The F-16 is the backbone of the Israeli air force and the two-seater F-16I its latest and most advanced version.

The F-16I, manufactured by Lockheed Martin, entered service in Israel six years ago. The aircraft is able to carry air-to-air heat-seeking missiles manufactured by Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd. as well as US-made radar-guided missiles. The aircraft also carries other advanced systems developed specially to meet Israel's needs, as well as enlarged fuel tanks which increase its flying range significantly.

Nine F-16's have crashed since 1997, according to military figures.

The most recent incident was in September 2009, when an F-16 warplane smashed into the ground in the southern part of the West Bank, killing the pilot.

He was the son of Israel's only astronaut, Ilan Ramon, who was killed in the disintegration of the Columbia space shuttle in 2003. The air force said pilot error was apparently responsible for the accident.

In May 2009, an F-16 made a crash landing at an air base after its landing gear failed. The crew ejected safely.

Israel first began receiving F-16 fighters from the U.S. in 1980. A year later, F-16 warplanes attacked and destroyed a nuclear plant under construction in Iraq, one of the most daring and famous of Israel's military operations.

In 1987, Israel scrapped construction of its own warplane, the Lavi, in favor of ordering more advanced models of the F-16 for its air force. Israel also purchased advanced F-15 fighter planes from the United States.

Israel does not disclose the size of its military forces or the number of warplanes. Unofficial sources put the number of Israel's F-16 fighters of all models at about 360.

two bombs went off in quick succession outside his home.

"We are terrified," Thomas said, who sought refuge with his family Wednesday at the church. "I cannot go back to my house. They will attack again.

They want to kill us."

A priest at the church, Moukhlis Shash, said four families arrived Wednesday, and he expects more in the coming days. He said some of the families found on their doorsteps a bullet wrapped in paper that read: "Your blood is legitimate for us."

Security was beefed up around churches in Baghdad after the church massacre, possibly pushing the militants to target the homes as easier targets.

Several police vehicles, equipped with machine guns, surrounded the church Wednesday. The building's outside walls were still riddled with bullets.

Pictures of two priests, killed in the siege, hung above the main entrance. Pieces of black cloth, each adored with a white crucifix, were tied to the metal fence surrounding the church.

Police said at least 11 roadside bombs went off within an hour Wednesday in three predominantly Christian areas of central Baghdad.

Two mortar rounds also struck Christian enclaves of the predominantly Sunni neighborhood of Dora in south Baghdad. Two bombs planted in deserted Christian homes in western Baghdad destroyed two houses.

The night before, a series of bombs hit three empty houses belonging to Christians but no one was hurt.

"It's not worth staying in a country where the government is not able to protect you even when you are sitting in your house," said Juliet Hana, a 33-year-old Christian who lives in one of the neighborhoods targeted Wednesday. She was having breakfast with her daughter when she heard the bombs go off, and said she plans to leave soon for either Syria or Jordan.

Catholic officials estimate that more than 1 million Christians have fled Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. Many went to Syria, which in recent days has seen a greater number of arriving Iraqis than usual. Sargon Dawod, director of the Assyrian General Conference in Damascus said eight families — 30 people — have immigrated to Syria over the past 10 days. He expects that number to increase.

Fadel Mikha Sam'an, 66, said

he went to Syria four days ago after losing three relatives in the church attack.

"The terrorists are killing Christians. They want to empty Iraq of Christians," he said.

Sunni militants such as al-Qaida justify their attacks by questioning whether the Christians are loyal to countries in the West rather than to Iraq. A group linked to al-Qaida in Iraq has claimed responsibility for the attack on the church.

Iraq's top Catholic prelate, Chaldean Cardinal Emmanuel III Delly, has encouraged the remaining 1.5 million Christians to stay in the country and asked authorities for more protection.

At the Baghdad church, Thomas said the Christians have no tribal leaders or militias to protect them. He is begging his wife to leave the country with their children.

His wife, Selma Edward Eskander, said she considers Iraq's Muslims her family too. "I don't want to leave. I just want to be somewhere where my children are safe," she said, still dressed in black to mourn her older brother.

"I wonder what has happened to Iraq. We Christians and Muslims used to live together." □

Letter: Mexican cartel offers to dissolve itself

E. EDUARDO CASTILLO

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A letter allegedly signed by a major Mexican drug cartel offers to dissolve the gang if the government promises to protect citizens in the western state where it is based, authorities said Wednesday.

Prosecutors said they couldn't immediately verify the letter's authenticity — or the offer's sincerity — but stressed the federal government does not negotiate with drug cartels.

The one-page letter allegedly signed by “La Familia Michoacana” drug cartel was dropped in the streets of some mountain towns in the

western state of Michoacan on Tuesday, according to the Michoacan bureau of the federal Attorney General's Office. It also showed up as a banner above an overpass and was sent as an e-mail to reporters.

The missive claims La Familia wants to protect Michoacan and its residents and says the group will disband if federal police promise to act honestly and fight to the death to defend the state.

“We have decided to retreat and return to our daily productive activities if the federal and local authorities ... promise to take control of the state with force and decision,” read the



A federal police officer escorts handcuffed Maria de Lourdes Moreno Aguilar, center, during her presentation to the press, along with other alleged drug gang members, in Mexico City, Thursday Oct. 21, 2010. Moreno and thirteen other alleged members of La Linea drug cartel, including one minor, suspects in the July 15 car bomb attack against police patrol trucks that killed two officers, two civilians and wounded seven people, were arrested Wednesday in the border town of Ciudad Juarez, according to police.

Associated Press

Salvador prison fire kills 16 inmates, injures 22



An inmate walks escorted by police officers on his way back from the hospital to jail, after he was injured during a fire in the prison of Ilobasco, northeast of San Salvador, El Salvador, Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010.

Associated Press

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — A fire tore through a prison north of El Salvador's capital Wednesday, killing at least 16 young inmates and injuring 22.

Ten of the injured are listed in serious condition with burns, said Mauricio Ventura, director of the Rosales Hospital in the capital, San Salvador.

The small prison in the city of Ilobasco held 96 inmates, 43 of whom were in the cell block affected by the fire. A final count of the inmates showed five were not injured. Most of the prisoners had served time in facilities for youthful offenders and were transferred to Ilobasco after they turned 18 to serve out any remaining sentences. □

letter, dated November 2010. “If the government accepts this public commitment and lives up to it, La Familia Michoacana will dissolve.”

Federal officials, however, say

the cartel itself has victimized Michoacan with kidnappings, extortion, hundreds of murders, decapitations and drug trafficking. Last year, they say, the gang unleashed a spasm of violence in which at least 18 police officers were killed. Last week, in response to the arrest of two members, the gang set ablaze trucks to block entries to the state capital and sprayed a shopping mall with automatic-weapons fire, the state attorney general's office said.

The letter allegedly written by La Familia says the gang's decision to possibly dissolve was motivated by alleged abuses against civilians by authorities conducting warrantless searches and arrests to combat the cartel.

An employee of the Attorney General's Office in Michoacan said authorities were investigating the letter's origin but could not immediately confirm its authenticity. The employee spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to be quoted by name. If the letter is to be believed, experts say the cartel could be willing to close up shop because it has simply run its course. Gary Hale, who retired this year as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and founded the Grupo Savant consulting firm, said they could be trying to find a way out so they could

make money by less violent means.

Jorge Chabat, an expert on drug trafficking of the Center for Research and Teaching in Economics (CIDE), said they could also be suffering money problems — and are being squeezed out. “This is a way to negotiate out of a business they're stuck in, with no greater cost to them,” he said. He said it could be a sign that they are being pressured in many ways, and want to find a way out, and may also be using the public to pressure the government into an agreement.

Ricardo Najera, spokesman for the federal Attorney General's Office, said that “regardless of whether the message is authentic or not, the federal government does not make deals or negotiate with drug cartels.”

La Familia appears to have deep local roots and an extensive network of civilian collaborators and sympathizers.

It also has distinguished itself by occasionally making public pronouncements, and has issued a set of rules for cartel members that proclaim family values and prohibit consuming — but not trafficking — hard drugs. The cartel also has sought to convince the public that it is defending Michoacan — where President Felipe Calderon was born — against other drug groups. □

Iraq PM likely to keep job; lawmakers set to meet



Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, center, prays for the siege victims during a visit to Our Lady of Salvation church in Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2010. The church recently was the scene of a horrific bloodbath that left scores dead and wounded.

REBECCA SANTANA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi lawmakers agreed late Wednesday to meet on forming a new government

as Kurdish and Shiite officials said an agreement had been reached that would allow Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to keep his job. If confirmed, the deal would

break a nearly eight-month impasse that has paralyzed the government and raised fears insurgents were taking advantage of the political deadlock to stoke violence.

Associated Press

The officials said a Sunni-backed coalition that had been opposing the prime minister finally decided to join his government.

"Finally, fortunately, it's done. It's finished. All the groups are in it," said Kurdish lawmaker Mahmoud Othman, who took part in the nearly seven hours of negotiations.

Ali al-Dabbagh, a government spokesman and member of al-Maliki's State of Law coalition, said the Sunni-backed coalition, Iraqiya, had decided after extensive talks to accept the parliament speaker's job and cede al-Maliki the prime minister's job.

An official with Iraqiya confirmed that the coalition had agreed to take the parliament speaker's position but would not go as far as to say that the bloc would support al-Maliki for the prime minister's job and

take part in his government. His stance left open the possibility, albeit tenuous, that Iraqiya would continue to fight after accepting the parliament speaker post. The Iraqiya official did not want to be identified because of the sensitivity of the negotiations.

Ever since the March 7 vote, Iraqi lawmakers have tussled back and forth over who would lead the new government. Iraqiya was able to capitalize on widespread Sunni frustration with the Shiite-led government to get 91 seats in the election, compared to 89 for al-Maliki's bloc.

But Iraqiya was never able to find the political partners it needed for a majority, and recently al-Maliki gained momentum as he gathered new allies, like followers of anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. □

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Rolen, Phillips, Arroyo give Reds 3 Gold Gloves

By MIKE FITZPATRICK
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — The new version of the Big Red Machine plays some pretty slick defense, too.

Cincinnati third baseman Scott Rolen won his eighth Gold Glove on Wednesday, one of three Reds players to be honored following the team's first playoff appearance in 15 years. Second baseman Brandon Phillips and pitcher Bronson Arroyo also were among the National League recipients announced by Rawlings.

It's the first time Cincinnati has had more than one winner in a season since the days of the Big Red Machine, when catcher Johnny Bench, second baseman Joe Morgan, shortstop Dave Concepcion and center fielder Cesar Geronimo won four straight years from 1974-77.


"I think our defense won a lot of games this year," Rolen said.

St. Louis catcher Yadier Molina and Philadelphia outfielder Shane Victorino each garnered their third Gold Glove in a row. Colorado shortstop Troy Tulowitzki and outfielder Carlos Gonzalez joined Arroyo as first-time winners.

"It was definitely a shock," Arroyo said. "Honestly, it never even crossed my mind once throughout my entire career."

Cardinals first baseman Albert Pujols won for the second time (2006), and speedy Houston center fielder Michael Bourn was a repeat winner.

Continued on Page B3



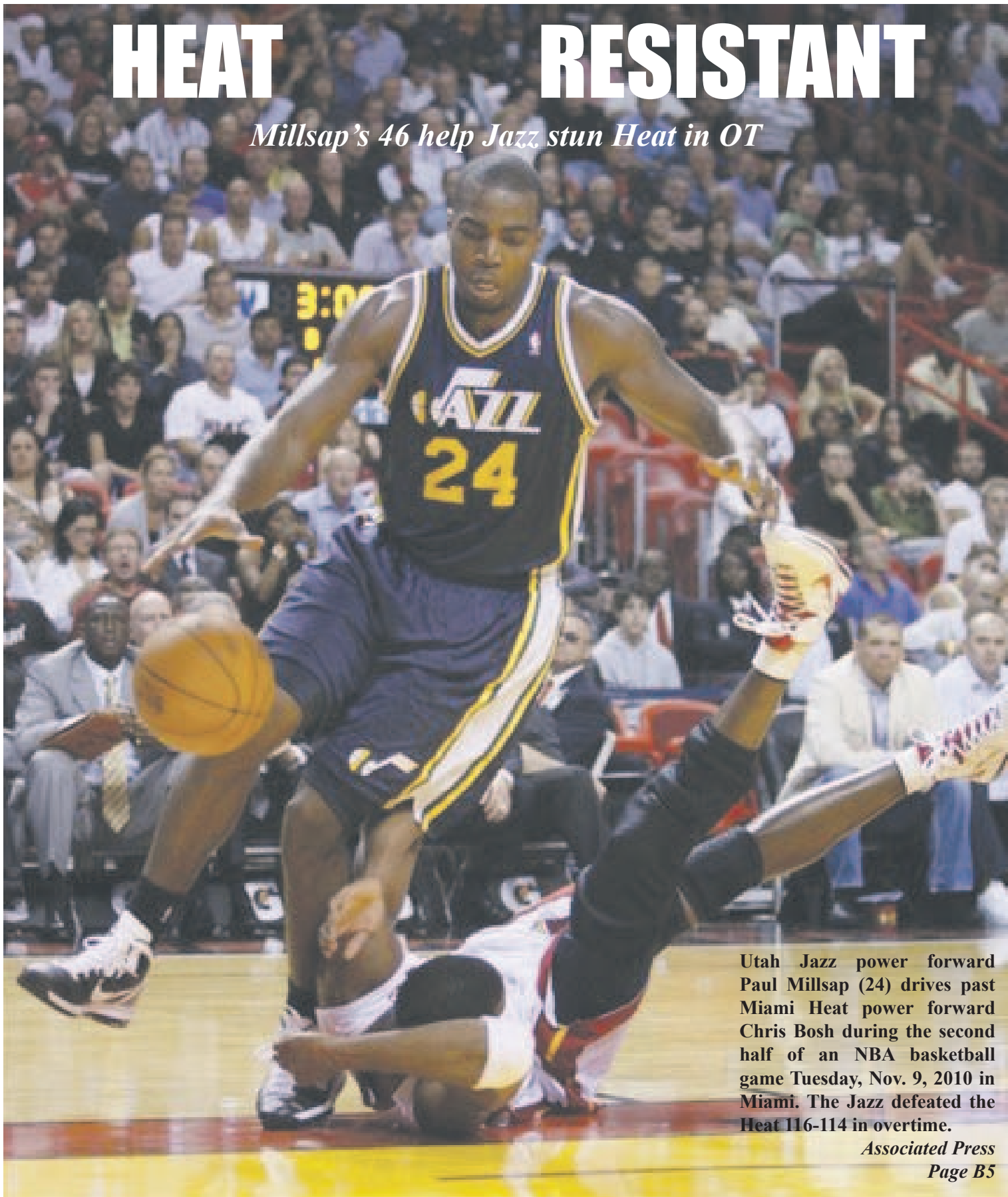
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HEAT RESISTANT

Millsap's 46 help Jazz stun Heat in OT



Utah Jazz power forward Paul Millsap (24) drives past Miami Heat power forward Chris Bosh during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2010 in Miami. The Jazz defeated the Heat 116-114 in overtime.

*Associated Press
Page B5*

Manager Gebrselassie reconsiders retirement

RAF CASERT
AP Sports Writer

BRUSSELS (AP) — Ethiopian long-distance great Haile Gebrselassie is already reassessing his sudden announcement to retire, the runner's manager told The Associated Press on Wednesday. Jos Hermens said that a sudden knee injury which forced the 37-year-old Gebrselassie out of Sunday's

New York Marathon left him in an emotional state which led to the rash announcement. Hermens has spoken to Gebrselassie by phone since the race. "He was already a lot more neutral," Hermens said, adding that Gebrselassie told him, "Let me think about it." Gebrselassie won two Olympic 10,000-meter gold medals, four outdoor world titles and set the marathon world

record of 2 hours, 3 minutes, 59 seconds in Berlin in 2008. Up to the New York race, the Ethiopian had said he wanted to compete through the 2012 London Olympics. Hermens said he will travel to Ethiopia and talk with Gebrselassie next week, confident there are more competitive races left in him.

Continued on Page B6

Woods opens with a 69 at Australian Masters



Tiger Woods hits out of the rough during his first round of the Australian Masters at Victoria Golf Club in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Nov. 11, 2010.

Associated Press

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — In his final title defense of a forgettable year, Tiger Woods opened the Australian Masters with a 2-under 69 and was four shots behind the early leaders

Thursday at Victoria Golf Club.

Woods missed only two greens in regulation, both times saving par from a bunker. But he took 19 putts on his outward nine, and had to hole a 7-foot par putt on the final hole to avoid his second

three-putt bogey.

Alistair Presnell and Adam Bland each at a 6-under 65, one shot clear of a group that included former PGA Tour winner Andre Stolz. Geoff Ogilvy, who a member at Victoria as a teenager, opened with a 72.

“That was probably the highest score I could have shot,” Woods said. “I gave myself a lot of looks early. I just didn’t kept leaving them short. The only bogey I had was a three-putt.”

Woods hit driver only on the par 5s, opting to play for position with a 2-iron and occasional 3-wood as he did a year ago at Kingston Heath when he won for the first time Down Under. Woods captured his 82nd title worldwide last year, and finished off another strong season with seven wins. Twelve days later, he was in a car accident outside his Florida

home that led to revelations of infidelity.

Woods has said he’s not looking at his trip to Melbourne as the completion of a year that cost him his marriage and his golf game, rather it was a tournament he was trying to win.

Even after a perplexing round on the greens, he felt he was on track.

“I could have easily been 4, 5, 6 under,” Woods said. “I don’t know what the guys are going to do this afternoon, but I’m right there.”

He certainly was in play.

Woods missed only two fairways — with a driver on the par-5 18th that forced him to pitch out sideways from the trees, and a 3-wood that he pulled into the bunker on the eighth, which has been converted to a par 4 for the Australian Masters.

Perhaps his most impressive

swing came on the par-5 17th, when he hit a low cut with a driver some 25 yards beyond Robert Allenby, leaving Woods a 2-iron to about 30 feet above the hole. He narrowly missed that eagle attempt.

Woods missed three putts — one of them for par — inside 7 feet on his opening nine. Toward the end of a round in warm sunshine on the sandbelt, Woods made almost everything from about that distance, looking birdies on the par-4 first and the par-3 fourth.

“I hit the ball well all day,” Woods said.

“It was just a matter of getting committed to hit the ball a little harder on my putts. I was in all the right spots. But they’re really slow up the hill and really quick going down, and I didn’t make the adjustment.” □

Crew chiefs trade barbs as title race tightens

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — The animosity on pit road began five weeks ago, when Jimmie Johnson’s team broke an unwritten code by selecting the stall right in front of Denny Hamlin.

NASCAR championship contenders traditionally stay away from each other on pit road, and Hamlin crew chief Mike Ford was not pleased by the lack of respect from Johnson crew chief Chad Knaus. Payback is fair play, though, and Ford repaid the slight last weekend at Texas Motor Speedway by selecting the pit stall in front of Johnson.

Then, when Johnson’s pit crew struggled through some early stops that ultimately led to their benching, Ford couldn’t help but wonder if the pressure of watching the flawless execution of Hamlin’s crew a few feet away didn’t play a part in their problems.

“You put the two pit crews toe-to-toe and those guys are going to make mistakes,” Ford boasted after Hamlin’s

win last Sunday pushed him past Johnson and into the points lead.

“We went beside them, and those guys faltered, and it made them panic and push to the point where they made changes.”

Knaus benched his crew midway through Sunday’s race after Hendrick Motorsports teammate Jeff Gordon crashed, and his crew became available for the rest of the day. The swap became official this week when HMS said Gordon’s crew would pit Johnson for the final two races in the Chase for the championship, in which Johnson trails Hamlin by 33 points.

So, did Hamlin and Ford and their team really get inside the heads of Johnson’s crew to the point they couldn’t perform at Texas? And, will mind games and mental warfare play a factor in deciding this championship? Veteran driver Jeff Burton thinks the issue is black and white and a sports psychologist isn’t needed to decipher the performance issues.

“I think a lot of people take

a lot of credit for things that perhaps were just coincidence,” Burton said. “But (Johnson) has not had typical pit stops for a large part of the year. This wasn’t the first race they’ve had a problem. If this was the first race they’ve had a problem then maybe (Ford) could make that case.

“But this isn’t the first race they haven’t been as good as you would expect them to be.”

The fact is, of the three championship contenders, it’s widely believed that Johnson’s pit crew has been the weakest even though he’s the four-time defending champion. Through attrition, promotion or being lured away by other teams, the core seven over-the-wall guys have changed from Johnson’s first championship to the group that was benched on Sunday.

Still, it took 34 races for Knaus to make a change, and when he did in the middle of the race, Ford viewed it as a “desperation move.”

Knaus pleaded ignorance on the slight — “my plate’s been pretty full,” he said —



Denny Hamlin beats Jimmie Johnson out of the pits during a caution in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Texas Motor Speedway on Sunday, Nov. 7, 2010, in Fort Worth, Texas.

Associated Press

but denied Ford’s claim that his team was better than Johnson’s.

“I don’t know that they’re a better team by any means,” Knaus said. “It’s funny that they’re more worried about us than worried about themselves.

I think I would be worried about focusing on (their) car instead of (ours). “

That line of thinking has helped Johnson to his four titles. Not since losing to Tony Stewart in 2005 has Johnson worried about the competition.

It’s hard to tell if Hamlin’s group is subscribing to that theory.

While the words flying back and forth between each team would seem to indicate a level of gamesmanship not seen in NASCAR in over a decade, both teams denied being worried about the other.

“Mind games only work if you let them,” Ford said. “And if you get all caught up trying to mess with people, you lose sight of what you are supposed to be doing.”

With two races to go — including Phoenix, where Johnson has won four of the last six races — it’s clear both teams are looking for every edge they can find. □

GOLD GLOVES

Continued from Page B1

"Michael's second Gold Glove comes as no surprise to anyone who has watched him play," Astros general manager Ed Wade said. "You see the ball leave the bat, and you say, 'No way that one gets caught,' and then Michael runs it down. Some guys make plays look tougher than they are. Michael makes the impossible catch look routine.

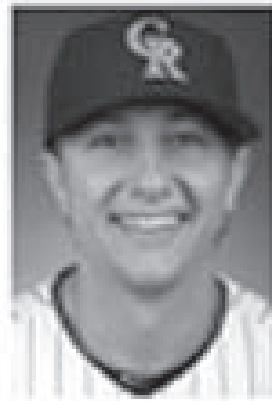
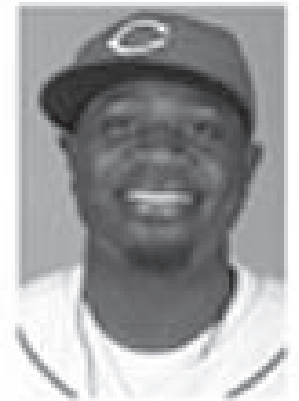
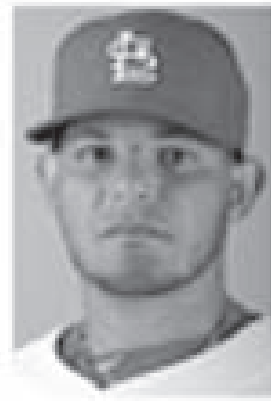
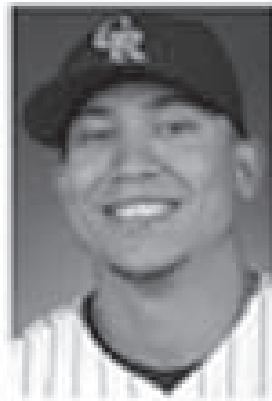
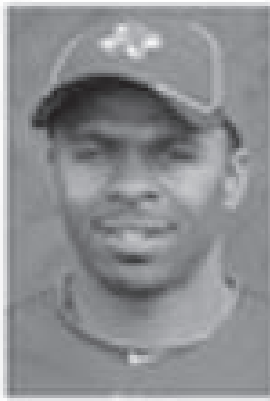
It's nice to see his hard work get recognized."

Phillips also won in 2008 before Orlando Hudson took the NL award at second base last year.

Rolen was selected for the first time since 2006. His eight Gold Gloves rank third at his position behind Hall of Famers Brooks Robinson (16) and Mike Schmidt (10).

On a conference call with all three Reds winners, the 35-year-old Rolen joked that he and general manager Walt Jocketty had already discussed a six-to-eight-year contract extension for "unlimited dollars" so he could chase Schmidt and Robinson.

"I think Mike Schmidt was the best third baseman to ever play the game," Rolen said. "To be with those guys obviously is an amazing compliment."



Cincinnati tied for the major league lead with a club-record .988 fielding percentage, a big reason the resurgent Reds won the NL Central before losing to Philadelphia in a first-round playoff sweep.

They committed only 72 errors, 17 fewer than the previous team record set last year.

"Having a great defensive infield is such a bonus," Arroyo said. "To have the year that we had defensively definitely contributed to us making the playoffs."

Rolen thinks other Cincinnati players such as first baseman Joey Votto, a leading contender for

NL MVP this year, and outfielders Jay Bruce and Drew Stubbs could be future Gold Glove winners, too.

"As we put this team together," Jocketty said, "one of the things that we emphasized was improving our defense.

"We are very pleased and also very proud of these guys," he added. "I think it's a great accomplishment for our organization and these guys in particular."

By winning, Phillips receives a \$250,000 increase in his salary next year to \$11.25 million. Molina, Pujols, Rolen and Victorino each get

\$50,000 bonuses, and Bourn and Tulowitzki receive \$25,000 apiece.

"It's an honor to be recognized by the managers and coaches as one of the top defensive players in the league along with all the other deserving candidates," Victorino said in a Phillies statement. "I take a lot of pride in my defense and this award means a lot to me."

percent of opposing basestealers, joined Mike Matheny (2000, 2003-04) and Tom Pagnozzi (1991-92, 1994) as Cardinals catchers to win three times.

Rawlings has awarded Gold Gloves since 1957. Managers and coaches vote for players in their leagues before the end of the regular season, but they can't choose members of their own teams.

The AL awards were announced Tuesday, with three New York Yankees infielders honored. □



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NHL Roundup

Canadiens end Canucks' winning streak at six

The Associated Press

MONTREAL (AP) — The Montreal Canadiens ended Vancouver's six-game winning streak with a 2-0 victory over the Canucks in the NHL on Tuesday. Carey Price made 35 saves for his second shutout, while Andrei Markov and Roman Hamrik scored for Montreal.

Capitals 5, Rangers 3

In New York, Washington made it five straight wins by downing New York. Washington got goals from Brooks Laich, John Erskine, and Mike Knuble. Matt Hendricks' third-period goal put the Capitals ahead for the first time, and Laich added his second into an empty net with 5 seconds left.

The Capitals beat the Rangers for the fourth consecutive time.

Brian Boyle had two goals and Rangers enforcer Derek Boogaard netted his first in nearly five years. New York squandered three one-goal leads.

Senators 5, Thrashers 2

In Ottawa, Jason Spezza scored two goals as Ottawa beat Atlanta and extended its winning streak to four straight.

Chris Neil and Jesse Winchester score their first goals of the season, and Sergei Gonchar also netted for Ottawa.

Andrew Ladd and Anthony Stewart scored power-play goals for the Thrashers.

Lightning 4, Maple Leafs 0
In Tampa, Toronto slumped



Montreal Canadiens goalie Carey Price makes a save off the Vancouver Canucks during third period NHL hockey action Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2010 in Montreal. The Canadiens shutout the Canucks 2-0.

Associated Press

to its sixth straight defeat, beaten by Tampa Bay.

Steven Stamkos scored two goals for the Lightning and goalie Dan Ellis had his second shutout of the season.

Nate Thompson and Dominic Moore also scored for the Lightning, who stopped a three-game losing skid.

The Maple Leafs have been outscored 19-8 — including being shutout three times — during a six-game skid.

Ducks 3, Sharks 2, OT

In San Jose, Lubomir Visnovsky scored with

33 seconds remaining in overtime to help Anaheim edge San Jose and win its fourth straight game.

San Jose took a timeout with 37 seconds remaining. Saku Koivu beat Patrick Marleau on the faceoff. Visnovsky got the puck and beat Antero Niittymaki from the point to end it.

Jason Blake and Corey Perry scored in regulation for the Ducks.

San Jose's goals came from Torrey Mitchell and Devin Setoguchi.

Flames 4, Avalanche 2

In Denver, Calgary won

its first game in give by defeating Colorado.

Curtis Glencross scored twice and Miikka Kiprusoff had 29 saves for the Flames, who also got goals from David Moss and Mikael Backlund.

Brandon Yip and Chris Stewart scored for the Avalanche.

Hurricanes 7, Oilers 1

In Raleigh, Carolina scored four times inside the first 7-1/2 minutes and routed Edmonton.

Joe Corvo scored two power-play goals and Eric Staal had four assists for the Hurricanes, who forced an early change in the Edmonton net by taking a 4-0 lead against Nikolai Khabibulin on just eight shots.

Patrick Dwyer scored 26 seconds in and Erik Cole added the second 49 seconds later on the power play.

In other NHL games it was Carolina 7, Edmonton 1; Washington 5, N.Y. Rangers 3; Montreal 2, Vancouver 0; Ottawa 5, Atlanta 2; Tampa Bay 4, Toronto 0; Calgary 4, Colorado 2; and Anaheim 3, San Jose 2, OT. □

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NBA Roundup

Jazz beat Heat in OT

MIAMI (AP) — Paul Millsap scored a career-high 46 points, including the basket that forced overtime, as the Utah Jazz edged Miami 116-114 in the NBA on Tuesday — handing the star-studded Heat their first home loss of the season.

Utah erased a 22-point deficit, plus overcame a 39-point night from Dwyane Wade and LeBron James' 29th career triple-double: 20 points, 14 assists and 11 rebounds.

The Heat missed five shots in the final two minutes of overtime that either would have tied the game or given them the lead, including Eddie House's desperation jumper at the buzzer.

Two free throws by Utah's Francisco Elson with 0.4 seconds left gave the Jazz an impressive win.

Deron Williams had 21 points and 14 assists for the Jazz before fouling out late in regulation. Millsap's 46 were by far the most by any player to face Miami this season — and a big turnaround for a player who previously averaged just 6.9 points in eight games against Miami.

In New Orleans, the hosts remained unbeaten this season by comfortably downing Los Angeles.

New Orleans' Willie Green scored 19 points and fellow reserve guard Jarryd Bayless added 15. With Chris Paul on the bench, Bayless and Green took over in the fourth quarter, combining to score the Hornets' first 19 points in the period to put New Orleans up 89-69.

New Orleans is off to a franchise-best 7-0 start under rookie coach Monty Williams. Al-Farouq Aminu scored 20

for the Clippers, who played most of the game without starting center Chris Kaman after he sprained an ankle.

Pacers 144, Nuggets 113

In Indianapolis, Indiana came close to a perfect shooting record in the third quarter as it racked up a huge score against Denver.

The Pacers made their first 20 shots of the third quarter, coming within 1.9 seconds of a perfect period when Josh McRoberts missed a 3-point attempt. Mike Dunleavy scored 24 of his 31 points in the Pacers' 54-point period. Indiana, which shot 64 percent overall, led 113-76 at the end of the third quarter.

Darren Collison scored 29 points for the Pacers, who set league season highs for points, field goals made and field-goal percentage.

Ty Lawson led Denver with 19 points.

In Newark, Antawn Jamison and Anthony Parker hit late 3-pointers to lift Cleveland over New Jersey.

Cleveland made five of its nine 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, none being bigger than the ones by Jamison and Parker in the final 2:28.

The Cavaliers got 52 points from the reserves, with J.J. Hickson leading a balanced attack with 18 points.

Travis Outlaw scored a season-high 27 points for the Nets, who have lost five in a row overall and nine in a row to Cleveland.

In Milwaukee, the host broke out of an early-season shooting slump with a big win over New York.

Brandon Jennings scored 19 points and Drew Gooden added 17 points and eight rebounds for the Bucks, who

shot 68 percent in the first quarter to grab the lead and never trailed in defeating the Knicks for the fourth straight time.

Milwaukee, which came in averaging an NBA-worst 89.6 points, passed that point total by the end of the third quarter. The final point total was a season high.

Amare Stoudemire led the Knicks with 19 points.

Trail Blazers 100, Pistons 78 In Portland, LaMarcus Aldridge had 19 points and 17 rebounds to power Portland past Detroit.

Nicolas Batum added 17 points for the Blazers who missed three-time All-Star Brandon Roy for much of the first half with a leg injury.

The Pistons, who dropped to 0-4 on the road, were led by Rodney Stuckey with 17 points.

Lakers 99, Timberwolves 94

In Los Angeles, the hosts moved to an 8-0 record for just the third time in franchise history after beating Minnesota.

Kobe Bryant scored 33 points and Pau Gasol added 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers, who matched the 1987-88 team for the second-best start in club history. Only the 1997-98 Lakers were better, starting 11-0.

Yet Los Angeles never pulled away from the rebuilding Timberwolves, who lost their sixth straight. Kevin Love had 23 points and a career-high 24 rebounds for Minnesota, which lost its 12th straight to the Lakers despite getting within two points in the final minutes.

In other NBA games it was Indiana 144, Denver 113; Cleveland 93, New Jersey



Miami Heat's LeBron James, right, drives to the basket against Utah Jazz Raja Bell during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game at American Airlines Arena in Miami on Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2010.

Associated Press

91; Utah 116, Miami 114, L.A. Clippers 82; Portland OT; Milwaukee 107, New 100, Detroit 78; and L.A. York 80; New Orleans 101, Lakers 99, Minnesota 94.

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Elite men's runner Haile Gebrselassie, of Ethiopia, speaks to reporters during a news conference for the New York City Marathon, Friday, Nov. 5, 2010 in New York.

Associated Press

GBRSELESSIE

Continued from Page B1

"If he takes his time, and he takes some time off with the family, I am sure that Haile

will say, 'From my heart, I want to run,'" Hermens said. "I already felt his first doubts." Despite his age and current knee injury, Hermens said he

is convinced Gebrselassie still has an Olympic future. A few days ahead of the race in the United States, Gebrselassie felt irritation in his knee,

which started to get inflamed when he got to New York. Hermens said it was especially bad news since Gebrselassie was bent on using the race to defy critics saying he could not win a tactical race against top opposition.

"For two to three days, the injury had to be treated very intensively with injection, pulling out liquid. Lots of painful stuff," Hermens said. "The timing was just terrible." After the race, Gebrselassie was held up in a bus from the organizers and unexpectedly taken to a news conference instead of his hotel. In front of reporters, he suddenly blurted out his announcement.

"I was totally surprised," Hermens said.

Back at the hotel, Hermens found a distraught Gebrselassie, who immediately apologized to him but stuck to his retirement announcement. He left New York that same day on an early flight.

"He needs to settle down now," Hermens said.

It was not the first time Gebrselassie fell prey to sudden retirement talk — even though it was the first time in public. When he quit the 2007 London Marathon with breathing difficulties after about 30 kilometers, he also thought he was done.

"He told me and a few others in his room, 'I will never learn the marathon. I'll never make it,'" Hermens said. "Then he went on to set two world records." Gebrselassie skipped the Beijing Olympics for fear that pollution would affect his running and centered on the 2012 London Games instead. "London will be very tough, but a medal is certainly not excluded," Hermens said. "Even if you finish your career with a bronze, that is still fantastic." □



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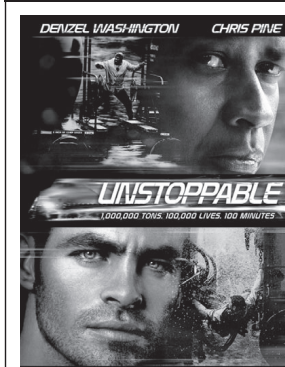
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PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 2 daily: 4:00 - 6:15 - 8:45 R matinee: 1:45 late show: 11:00	DUE DATE daily: 4:30 - 6:45 - 9:00 NEW matinee: 12:00 - 2:15 R late show: 11:15
LIFE AS WE KNOW IT daily: 6:45 - 9:15 matinee: 11:45 PG-13 late show: 11:45	SECRETARIAT daily: 9:15 matinee: 11:45 PG-13 late show: 11:45
MEGAMIND 3D daily: 4:00 - 6:15 - 8:30 PG matinee: 1:30 late show: 11:00	FOR COLORED GIRLS daily: 4:45 - 7:45 R matinee: 1:45 late show: 11:00
SECRETARIAT daily: 6:45 - 9:15 matinee: 11:45 PG-13 late show: 11:45	MEGAMIND 3D daily: 4:45 - 7:00 PG matinee: 12:15 - 2:30 late show: 11:30
SINTERKLAAS EN HET PAKJES MYSTERIE daily: 4:45 matinee: 12:15 - 2:30 R late show: 11:15	RED daily: 4:00 - 6:30 - 9:00 PG-13 matinee: 1:30 late show: 11:30

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Federer, Djokovic advance at Paris Masters

SAMUEL PETREQUIN

AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — Roger Federer eased into the third round of the Paris Masters on Wednesday with a 6-4, 6-4 win over local favorite Richard Gasquet on a day when the top four seeds advanced.

Defending champion Novak Djokovic, third-seeded Andy Murray of Britain and No. 4 Robin Soderling of Sweden all joined Federer in the third round.

Fresh off his victory at the Swiss Indoors, where he won his 65th title last week, Federer converted his first break point for a 2-1 lead with a sharp forehand volley and closed out the first set with an ace after losing only three points on his serve.

Gasquet saved three break points in the first game of the second set to level at 40-40 but stopped playing after misjudging a shot from Federer that was in, with the Swiss being awarded the point. Gasquet then sent a backhand long and Federer held his serve to move up 2-0.

Federer sealed the win on

his first match point to improve his record against Gasquet to 7-1, after losing their first meeting five years ago. "I don't think there was much between us except that I made a couple of games where I played really well, in which I was able to make the difference," Federer said. "I have more experience, I know how to play the key points."

Djokovic overcame a slow start and an early break in the first set to beat Juan Monaco of Argentina 6-4, 6-3, while Soderling needed just 63 minutes and 11 aces to down Frenchman Gilles Simon 6-4, 6-0.

Djokovic struggled on his first serve but fended off seven of eight break points and took Monaco's serve three times. The second-seeded Serb next plays Frenchman Michael Llodra, who beat No. 16 John Isner of the United States 6-3, 6-4.

Murray also had some problems in his 2-6, 6-4, 6-3 victory over former No. 3 David Nalbandian and received treatment for an apparent wrist injury during the decider.



Andy Roddick of USA returns the ball to Jarkko Nieminen of Finland during their match of the Paris Tennis Masters tournament, Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010.

Associated Press

Nalbandian, who missed most of last year because of hip surgery and missed two months this season with a hamstring problem, lost only two points on his first serve in the opening set but tumbled at a crucial point when he was broken in the 10th game of the second set after two consecutive unforced errors, allowing Murray to level.

Murray called for the trainer at 2-2 in the decider and received treatment for about five minutes. He came back on court and quickly recovered, breaking for a 5-3 lead before serving out the match.

"My wrist feels OK just now," Murray said. "I have had a few problems with it

in the past, and I felt quite a sharp pain. I'll just have to wait and see if it's still fine tomorrow."

Murray next plays No. 13 Marin Cilic of Croatia, who beat Sergiy Stakhovsky of Ukraine 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

Eighth-seeded Andy Roddick took a big step toward qualifying for the ATP World Tour Finals by beating Jarkko Nieminen 6-1, 6-4.

Roddick never looked in trouble against the Finn and didn't face a single break point as he broke his opponent three times.

Only the top eight players qualify for the ATP Finals in London from Nov. 21-28, with No. 1 Rafael Nadal, Federer, Djokovic, Murray

and Robin Soderling having already booked their places. "Every match I win is significant at this point," Roddick said. "Puts more pressure on the guys behind me."

I have a pretty good shot no matter how I do here this week, but I think the last thing you want to do is be in that position where you're at home cheering against somebody hoping that something bad happens to them."

Roddick is in eighth place in the rankings and will be guaranteed a spot at the year-end tournament unless Fernando Verdasco reaches the final in Paris or Jurgen Melzer wins the tournament. □

U.S. reaches volleyball semis despite loss to Brazil

NAGOYA, Japan (AP) — The United States reached the semifinals of the women's world volleyball championship despite losing to top-ranked Brazil 25-19, 24-26, 25-19, 25-23 on Wednesday.

The United States will meet defending champion Russia, while Olympic champ Brazil will face host Japan in Saturday's last-four games in Tokyo.

The Americans booked the last semifinals berth but needed help on Wednesday. After losing to Brazil, the U.S. could have been surpassed by 2002 champion Italy. But Italy was upset by Cuba 16-25, 26-24, 21-25, 25-23, 24-22 and missed out on the semifinals for the first time since 1998. Kenia Caracases, with 34 points, led Cuba, which will miss the top eight for the first time.

The United States finished the second round with a 5-2 record for second place in Group F. Brazil was first with a 7-0 record.

Russia also finished unbeaten in Group E after a 25-21, 25-14, 23-25, 25-13 win over Japan, which qualified for the semifinals with a 5-2 record. □

Redskins' McNabb still not close to full speed

By JOSEPH WHITE

AP Sports Writer

ASHBURN, Va. — Donovan McNabb is still hampered by sore hamstrings as he prepares for his first start since he was benched late in a game by coach Mike Shanahan.

The Washington Redskins quarterback stayed after practice Wednesday for extra work ahead of Monday night's game against his old team, the Philadelphia Eagles. "Right now, he's improved from last week, but by no means is he full speed yet," Shanahan said. "As we go later in the week, I'll get a feel exactly where he's at, but right now I can't tell you if he could go full speed." Last week, Shanahan cited the ailing hamstrings as one of the reasons he pulled McNabb in the final minutes of a loss to the

Detroit Lions. The coach said at the time that the Redskins had not practiced the 2-minute offense for five weeks because McNabb was too sore, and that Rex Grossman was therefore in better shape to handle the final drives.

The Redskins had a bye Sunday, giving McNabb extra time to rest. Shanahan said the team will find a way to practice the hurry-up offense this week, although it could be a slowed-down version if the McNabb is still hobbling. McNabb is scheduled to meet with reporters Thursday.

Neither of the Redskins' top two running backs was able to take part in the full practice. Clinton Portis has missed four games with a left groin injury, and Ryan Torain hurt a hamstring in the Detroit game. □

Make your pick! NHL All-Star game gets makeover

IRA PODELL

AP Hockey Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sidney Crosby or Alex Ovechkin might get the thrill of being picked No. 1 all over again.

No, the Pittsburgh Penguins and Washington Capitals aren't losing their superstar captains, but Crosby or Ovechkin could be selected first when the NHL All-Star game gets a makeover unlike any other.

Call it hockey's version of a school yard pickup game.

The NHL announced Wednesday that it is switching from the conference-vs.-conference format it has used for years to a player draft conducted by the All-Stars, in which captains selected by the players will determine the teams.

"We know what the All-Star game is and we know what it isn't," said Brendan Shanahan, an eight-time All-Star who is now the NHL's vice president of hockey and business development. "We're not trying to make it anything other than a great, entertaining and fun event for the players."

"We're not going to be combing the dressing rooms telling them to hit each other. We just want to spark their competitive juices."

The NHL and the players' association have been working for months on ways to spice up the All-Star game.

The final plan was hammered out Tuesday in Toronto during a meeting of the league's general



FILE- In this Jan. 25, 2009, file photo, the starters for the Western Conference and the Eastern Conference take their place around center ice before the NHL hockey All-Star Game in Montreal. The NHL All-Star Game will look like a schoolyard pickup game this season. The league is switching from the conference-vs.-conference format it has used for years to a player draft conducted by the All-Stars themselves.

Associated Press

managers.

"It wasn't a matter of looking at five or six different formats to change the event and picking one, it was a building process," said Mike Ouellet, the NHLPA's chief of business affairs. "We looked at ways to reinvigorate things and give it back to the players and put them back in their youth."

Shanahan said there was never much of a discussion of placing greater impact on the game in the way baseball did by awarding home-field advantage in the World Series to the winning league.

"In the All-Star games that I was lucky enough to play in, it was the last thing on my mind," Shanahan said. "I just didn't think it would be fair to hockey purists to place something that important, and that is earned over an entire season, on the shoulders of players that are at an entertaining All-Star game."

After a one-year hiatus because of the Olympics, NHL All-Star festivities will return during the last

weekend of January with the Carolina Hurricanes serving as host.

The NHL didn't feel pressure to revamp things, it was just looking for a fresh look.

"It's not something that I ever walked away from and felt that we needed to apologize for this game," Shanahan said "I sometimes get defensive when we do apologize for it. The event in itself is a great one and one that I was always proud to be a part of."

Fans will continue to vote via electronic ballots from a list of 100 players, but their votes will only determine the first six All-Stars. The remaining 36 players will be chosen by the NHL's hockey operations department.

Then the fun begins.

Two captains will then be chosen, and they will draft the rest of the players to their yet-to-be-named teams. Those teams will compete in the All-Star game and skills competition.

"The goal here was to give the game back to the players, put them back

in that environment that they are comfortable with and used to," Shanahan said. "So often at the end of practice, players are picking teams or dividing teams or even going back to their youth whether it was in their driveway or in the street playing road hockey. "That was the concept to make it fun and entertaining for the players and let that hopefully translate to all of our spectators."

Fans will vote for team of All-Stars by selecting three forwards, two defensemen and a goalie. In addition to the 100 players on the ballot, fans will also be able to vote for write-in candidates.

There will be 42 players picked overall, with each team consisting of 12 forwards, six defensemen, and three goalies. The NHL hockey operations department will also choose 12 rookies to take part in the skills competition, rounding out the 54 players involved in All-Star weekend.

Every NHL team will still be represented by at least one player during the

weekend's festivities.

On Jan. 28, the teams will be picked in the newly established draft — with a coin flip determining which team chooses first. Once the All-Star game rosters are picked, the captains will select the rookies to fill out the skills competition rosters.

Teams will participate in six skills, including fastest skater, breakaway challenge, accuracy shooting, skills challenge relay, hardest shot and the elimination shootout.

While Shanahan said players themselves aren't worried about being the last guy picked, the NHL is sensitive to such issues.

All the drafting logistics haven't been worked out yet, but the league is looking into potentially having final rounds of multiple selections so no player feels the awkwardness of waiting until the end to be picked.

"They sort of laugh about it and kid around and almost revel in the potential squirming situation," Shanahan said with a laugh. □



Google to give 10 pct raises to entire work force



A man walks past Google Inc. headquarters in Mountain View, California, May 8, 2008

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE,
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK — Google Inc. is showing it still knows how to make its employees feel special: It is giving all 23,300 of them 10 percent raises next year.

The Internet search leader also is shifting part of workers' annual bonuses into their regular paychecks, according to an internal memo sent Tuesday by Google CEO Eric Schmidt. Those bonuses won't count toward the 10 percent.

The planned raises, earlier reported by the technology blog Silicon Alley Insider, were confirmed Wednesday by The Associated Press.

Google has long been known for feeding its workers free food and pampering them with other perquisites that would be considered luxuries by most employees.

But the company began taking away some of the goodies in late 2008 and early 2009. It went so far as to lay off a few hundred people to help boost its earnings during the depth of the worst U.S. recession since World War II.

The good times are back at Google this year, though. Revenue rose 23 percent to \$21 billion through the first nine months of 2010. Confident of even more prosperity ahead, Google has added 3,500 employees so far this year to expand its work force by nearly 20 percent. It also has been spending

heavily on acquisitions and investments in the data centers that run its online services.

The raises are yet another sign of Google's bullishness. The company didn't disclose how much the added payroll would cost, but assuming an average employee salary of \$100,000 — not outlandish by high-tech standards — the across-the-board raises would amount to an additional \$233 million annually.

Google can easily afford that, with \$33 billion in cash as of Sept. 30. Schmidt framed the raises as a way to reward "the best employees in the world," but the largess also may be part of a strategy to slow defections to up-and-coming Internet

rivals, such as Facebook. The rapidly growing online hangout has become more aggressive about recruiting Google workers since it hired one of Google's top sales executives, Sheryl Sandberg, as its president two-and-half years ago.

"While we don't typically comment on internal matters, we do believe that competitive compensation plans are important to the future of the company," Google spokesman Jordan Newman said in a Wednesday statement.

Schmidt didn't address the Facebook effect in his memo. Facebook, located just a few miles away from Google's Mountain View, Calif.,

headquarters, has been able to dangle stock options in what is expected to be a highly lucrative initial public offering within the next few years.

Google's employee stock options once were a major enticement, but they have been producing smaller windfalls as the company has matured since its own IPO six years ago. Google shares slipped \$4.43 in Wednesday's trading to \$620.39, leaving them well below their all-time of \$747 reached three years ago.

In his memo, Schmidt said Google's internal employees had concluded the size of their paychecks had become more important than stock options and bonuses. □

Review:

Nifty scanner eases farewell to paper

By PETER SVENSSON,
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK — Here's where the iPad has gotten me: I'm sitting with an old book in one hand and a utility knife in the other. My plan is to make the two meet, by cutting up the book and feeding the pages through a scanner.

The printed word has been shackled too long to paper, and I want to carry it around on my iPad tablet computer.

Cutting a book is hard, though. There's a mental block to overcome. After a lifetime of valuing books, I find it difficult to destroy one, even to preserve it in digital form — particularly if it's a hardback.

The iPad, as a fantastic replacement for paper, deserves only half the blame for putting me in this position. The other half goes to the Fujitsu ScanSnap s1500.

As I started thinking about scanning my documents and "going paperless," I thought about the ideal scanner: It should take a pile of papers and scan both side of each sheet, so I don't have to feed them one by one. It turns out that there aren't many affordable, consumer-level scanners like that. But all we need is one good device, and the ScanSnap is it. If you can swallow the \$430 price tag, it's ideal. It goes through paper like a bonfire.

The ScanSnap is designed from the ground up to turn stacks of pulp to bytes. It doesn't have the large glass bed of the conventional scanner or copy machine. Instead, it looks like a small inkjet printer, taking up only a bit more desk space than a lunch box. It has a 50-sheet holder and feeds each sheet between rollers while scanning both sides at the same time through two thin strips of glass.

It takes just 3 seconds for the ScanSnap to scan a sheet at a decent resolution. That compares with 30 seconds for the two other sheet-fed, double-sided (or duplex) scanners I tried, the \$140 Canon Pixma MX870 and the \$270 HP ScanJet 5590.

The quality of ScanSnap's output is good, too. The other scanners had problems with pulling the paper at an even pace past the scanning slit. That resulted in letters that were either stretched out — too tall — or squished. That "funhouse effect" was nearly absent on the ScanSnap. It was also better at pulling the paper straight across the slit, avoiding skewed lines.



This product image provided by Fujitsu, shows the Fujitsu ScanSnap s1500. The ScanSnap is designed from the ground up to turn stacks of pulp to bytes. It doesn't have the large glass bed of the conventional scanner or copy machine. Instead, it looks like a small inkjet printer, taking up only a bit more desk space than a lunch box.

(AP Photo)

What if you forget to take out the staples from your tax return before stuffing it in the scanner? No problem! The ScanSnap is smart enough to figure out if two sheets are sticking together, and it will stop so you can fix the problem. Return the sheets to the feeder, hit a button and scanning resumes.

So what's the point of scanning your documents? Well, it's an easy way to organize everything. Like most scanners, the ScanSnap comes with software that "reads" the scans, making them searchable. Scanning also makes it easy to send documents around — if your mortgage broker needs your utility bill, it's easier to scan and e-mail it than to fax it. And obviously, scans take less space than binders full of documents.

Because the ScanSnap is so fast, it's tempting to scan books as well. You could carry a couple of bookshelves worth of scanned books on the iPad. □

Jackson producer, manager vouch for Jackson song



In this CD cover image released by Epic Records, newly completed recordings from Michael Jackson entitled 'Michael,' is shown. The CD will be released on Dec.14.

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY,

AP Music Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Some of Michael Jackson's family members are unhappy with the release of the posthumous

single "Breaking News." But the late legend's longtime producer and manager say it is indeed Jackson's voice on the newly released track.

"When I heard these songs, my heart cried hearing Michael

again in good spirits. The vocals sounded very polished, very on key and processed. I have no doubts that these are Michael's vocals," Jackson's longtime producer, Teddy Riley, said Wednesday in a statement to The Associated Press.

"Breaking News" is the first song off "MICHAEL," due out Dec. 14. It's the first album of unreleased Jackson material since Jackson's death.

Representatives for Epic Records, Jackson's label, say Jackson not only co-wrote the song in 2007 but also co-produced it with Eddie Cascio and James Porte. It made its debut on michaeljackson.com on Monday.

But Jackson's nephews, Taryll, Taj and TJ Jackson, tweeted this week that their uncle's voice isn't the one featured on the song.

"I KNOW my Uncle's voice and something's seriously wrong when you have immediate FAMILY saying

it's not him," wrote Taryll Jackson. "Don't you have to wonder why? I have strong, undeniable points. They can't give me answers, yet continue to move forward with lies and deception. Sounding like Michael Jackson and BEING Michael Jackson are two different things."

Michael Jackson's brother Jackie also took to Twitter this week, and while he did not call the song a fraud, he did voice concerns.

"My friend John McClain (co-executor) and I have insisted for many weeks to have certain tracks removed from Michael's new album," wrote Jackson about McClain, who is co-executor of Jackson's estate. "Unfortunately, our concerns were not taken seriously."

However, Riley, who worked with Jackson on the albums "Dangerous," "HIStory," "Invincible" and other projects, said he had the family's support on the

production of the album.

"I did what Michael would expect of me with the tools I had to work with (vocal tracks of Michael). This is his legacy," he said. "Let it live." Frank Dileo, who had been Jackson's manager years ago and re-entered his career shortly before his death, also vouched for the song's authenticity.

"I spoke to Michael by telephone at the Cascios' home studio several times while he was recording with them, and he was excited and enthused by the music and the experience," Dileo said in a statement.

"While listening to the tracks, especially the ones not heard by the general public, you can hear that he was having a great time!"

The album is being released in conjunction with Jackson's estate, which is managed by McClain and John Branca, who had been Jackson's attorney for years. □

Lava, tsunamis, alien invasions: Films bash L.A.

By SANDY COHEN, AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — This city has the worst luck.

Through decades of disaster films, Los Angeles has been targeted by aliens, toppled by temblors, sunken by tsunamis, leveled by lava, and a rogue tornado once took out the Hollywood sign.

And so it will be that calamity again strikes the City of Angels in the new sci-fi film "Skyline," opening Friday, followed by another bout of destruction early next year in the movie "Battle: Los Angeles."

What is it about L.A. that invites such repeated devastation?

"People love watching Los Angeles get destroyed," says "Battle: Los Angeles" director Jonathan Liebesman. "It's nice to screw up the great weather."

But there's so much more to it than that.

The city is home to Hollywood and the movie business, so the artists who write about, direct and execute mass destruction in Los Angeles are often intimately familiar with the territory.

Production designer Jackson De Govia — who helped blow up the Beverly Center shopping mall and decimate Wilshire Boulevard's museums in 1997's "Volcano" — says he loves trashing his own city on film.

"One of the funnest things you can do in movies is blow stuff up," says De Govia, who also pulverized Nakatomi Plaza in the original "Die Hard." "And if you're blowing up your hometown, and that hometown is Los Angeles, it's even better, because who hasn't wanted to do that at times?"



In this film publicity image released by Universal Pictures, fighter jets attack an alien ship over the city of Los Angeles in the sci-fi thriller, 'Skyline'.

(AP Photo/Universal Pictures)

L.A. is a city filled with internationally recognized landmarks — the Hollywood sign, the Capitol Records building, City Hall and the skyscrapers of downtown — which make for "convenient cinematic shorthand," says Craig Detweiler, director of the Center for Entertainment, Media and Culture at Pepperdine University.

"It allows the scale of the disaster to strike everybody," he says. "Everybody recognizes the Hollywood sign. It's like, 'Oh, that's big.'" Apart from its landmarks, L.A. is a popular disaster-movie locale because of its geography. Sitting in a seismic

zone on the western edge of the continent, it is surrounded by beaches, mountains and deserts. In real life, the city is subject to floods, fires, earthquakes and big waves, so seeing freeways collapse or Santa Monica swallowed up by the sea (as in "2012") isn't such a stretch.

"L.A. can have these multiple functions as an apocalyptic disaster place because it's on the verge between urbanism and nature," says Leo Braudy, a University of Southern California professor and author of "The Hollywood Sign: Fantasy and Reality of an American Icon." "There's a sense of the precariousness

of human habitation over this potentially eruptive nature."

Los Angeles is also a city many people love to hate, notes American Film Institute historian Bob Birchard: "L.A. and certainly Hollywood have been associated in some people's minds as a hotbed of the devil's work, so that underlying element is part of the genre."

That notion isn't just implied in 1996's "Escape from L.A.," it's stated: Los Angeles becomes known as the "island of the damned" and "a deportation point for all people found undesirable or unfit to live in the new moral America." □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stocks waver amid caution over G20 summit



FILE - In this Nov. 4, 2010 file photo, traders work from the floor to the New York Stock Exchange, in New York.

(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer, file)

By **STEPHEN BERNARD,**
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Stocks wavered Wednesday amid caution about an upcoming meeting of world leaders and as Europe continues to grapple with government debt problems.

Major indexes pared some of their early losses as technology stocks recovered and energy companies rose along with crude oil prices. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 2 points in afternoon trading. Broader indexes rose. Chevron Corp. and ConocoPhillips were among oil companies that gained more than 1 percent. Stocks got no help from an unexpectedly sharp drop in first-time claims for unemployment benefits as traders instead focused on taking profits before a summit of world leaders. Members of the Group of 20 will be meeting Thursday and Friday in South Korea.

The meeting comes as countries like the U.S. and Japan try to weaken their currency to help stimulate economic growth. A global economic recovery has been slow and many developed countries like the U.S. have struggled to expand fast enough to put a dent in high unemployment rates.

Major European indexes all slid as worries grow about debt problems in Ireland. The euro briefly fell below \$1.37 for the first time in three weeks. Concerns about mounting government debt in many European countries have occasionally dragged down stocks around the world throughout the year. Countries like Ireland and Greece are facing rising debt with little signs of growth.

The dollar had been weakening against other currencies in recent weeks because of a recently announced program by the Federal Reserve to buy Treasury bonds in an effort to drive interest rates lower and spark spending and lending. A weaker currency makes a country's exports cheaper and more attractive overseas. Japan has been especially active in trying to weaken its currency because its economy is so reliant on big exporting companies like Sony Corp. and Toyota Motor Corp.

The Dow fell 2.01, or less than 0.1 percent, to 11,344.97 in afternoon trading. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 2.45, or 0.2 percent, to 1,215.85.

The Nasdaq composite index, focuses on technology stocks, rose 8.41, or 0.3 percent, to 2,571.39. It had been down as much as 19 points earlier in

the day.

Uri Landesman, president at Platinum Partners, said Wednesday's pause is natural for a market that has been climbing nearly unchecked since early September. Major indexes have all touched highs for the year in recent days.

Bond yields rose, pushing interest rates higher. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.71 percent from 2.66 percent late Tuesday.

Britain's FTSE 100 fell 1

percent, Germany's DAX index dropped 1 percent, and France's CAC-40 fell 1.5 percent.

In corporate news, General Motors said it earned \$2 billion in the third quarter. The big profit came at the right time for the automaker. It is set for an initial public offering next week after struggling through bankruptcy and a government bailout. New car and crossover models and strong sales overseas helped GM.

The Labor Department

said first-time claims for unemployment benefits fell more than economists' had forecast and reversed a rise reported a week earlier. The claims number came after the government last week said that hiring by private employers rose at its fastest pace in six months. The unemployment report came out a day earlier than usual because government offices are closed Thursday for Veterans' Day. The stock market will remain open on the holiday. □

Jobless claims fall in hopeful sign for hiring



Job seekers fill out job applications during a job fair at the The Radisson Martinique hotel, Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2010 in New York. Fewer people applied for unemployment aid last week, the third drop in four weeks and evidence that the job market is showing signs of life.

(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

By **CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER,**
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Fewer people applied for unemployment aid last week, the third drop in four weeks and a sign that more employers are hiring while layoffs are falling.

If the decline continues, it could signal more hiring in the near future. The report comes after the Labor Department said last week that private employers in October added the most jobs in six months.

First-time applications for unemployment benefits fell 24,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 435,000, the Labor Department said Wednesday. Wall Street economists had expected a smaller decline.

The four-week average of applications, a less volatile gauge, fell 10,000 to 446,500. That's the lowest level for the average since the week that ended Sept. 13, 2008 — just before the financial crisis intensified with

the collapse of Lehman Brothers. Still, weekly applications would need to fall below 425,000 to indicate that hiring is picking up significantly, economists say.

Economists were heartened by the figures.

The report is "encouraging" and "in line with the view that the labor market and overall economy are starting to strengthen," said Daniel Silver, an economist at JPMorgan Chase.

Still, economists stressed that the decline would need to continue for several more weeks to show that employers are growing steadily more confident about hiring. Mark Vitner, an economist at Wells Fargo, said that if the drop in claims endures, net job gains could rise from this year's average of 90,000 a month to 140,000 next year.

Yet even that's barely enough to keep up with population growth. The economy needs to create at least 300,000 net jobs a month to make a major dent in the unemployment rate, now at 9.6 percent. The weekly jobless claims figures closely track layoffs, which have fallen sharply in the past year. A Labor Department report Tuesday showed that private sector layoffs have fallen to a four-year low. And small businesses, on average, are no longer cutting their work forces, according to a separate survey released Tuesday by the National Federation of Independent Business.

Separately, the trade deficit narrowed in September by 5.3 percent to \$44 billion in September as imports retreated slightly while exports edged higher.

Rising sales of American airplanes and industrial machinery helped push exports to \$154.1 billion in September. That's the highest level of exports in two years.

Still, imports exceed exports by a wide margin even though they fell 1 percent last month to \$198.1 billion. And the trade gap through the first nine months of this year remains 40 percent wider than it was a year ago. □



Feds propose graphic cigarette warning labels

By MICHAEL
FELBERBAUM,
AP Tobacco Writer

RICHMOND, Va. — Corpses, cancer patients and diseased lungs: These are some of the images the federal government plans for larger, graphic warning labels that will take up half of each cigarette package.

The images are part of a new campaign announced by the Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services on Wednesday to reduce tobacco use, which is responsible for about 443,000 deaths per year. “It acts as a very public billboard because you all of the sudden are reading something about lung cancer from that pack behind the cash register, whereas before you were just reading ‘Marlboro,’” said David Hammond, a health behavior researcher at the University of Waterloo in Canada, who is working with the firm designing the labels with for the FDA.



Three examples of proposed warning graphics that will appear on cigarette packaging as part of the government's new tobacco prevention efforts, seen in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

The share of Americans who smoke has fallen dramatically since 1970 from nearly 40 percent to about 20 percent, but those declines have stalled recently. At the same time, the average cost per pack has gone from 38 cents to \$5.33. About 46 million adults in the U.S. smoke cigarettes, and so do with 19.5 percent of high school students.

The new prevention plan is part of the law passed in June 2009 giving the FDA authority to regulate tobacco, including marketing and labeling guidelines, banning certain products and limiting nicotine. The law doesn't let the FDA ban nicotine or tobacco entirely.

“Today, FDA takes a crucial step toward reducing the

tremendous toll of illness and death caused by tobacco use by proposing to dramatically change how cigarette packages and advertising look in this country,” FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg said in a news release. “The health consequences of smoking will be obvious every time someone picks up a pack of cigarettes.”

The FDA is proposing 36 labels for public comment, which include phrases like “smoking can kill you” and “cigarettes cause cancer,” but also feature graphic images to convey the dangers of tobacco use. The agency will select the final labels in June after reviews of scientific literature, public comments, and results from an 18,000-person study. Cigarette makers will then have 15 months to start using the new labels.

The new warning labels are to take up half of a pack — both front and back — of cigarettes and contain “color graphics depicting the negative health consequences.” Warning labels also must constitute 20 percent of advertisements.

In recent years, more than 30 countries or jurisdictions have introduced labels similar to those proposed by the FDA.

The U.S. first mandated the use of warning labels stating “cigarettes may be hazardous to your health” in 1965.

While it is impossible to say how many people quit because of the labels that have been introduced, Hammond said every source of evidence suggests that the labels do spur people to quit.

Meanwhile, Reynolds American Inc., parent company of the nation's second-largest cigarette maker, R.J. Reynolds, is reviewing the labeling plan. But spokesman David Howard said the legality of the new labels is part of the lawsuit filed by the company, Lorillard Inc. and others pending in federal appeals court.

The tobacco makers in the suit had argued the warnings would relegate the companies' brands to the bottom half of the cigarette packaging, making it “difficult, if not impossible, to see.”

Anti-tobacco advocates are applauding the federal campaign and the new warning labels.

“This is going to stop kids from starting to smoke ... and it's going to give smokers a strong incentive to quit smoking,” said Patrick Reynolds, the grandson of R.J. Reynolds and executive director of the Foundation for a Smokefree America. Reynolds' father, brother and other relatives died from smoking-related illnesses.

It remains to be seen how well the scare tactics will work.

“I don't think they're going to be a deterrent at all for people who already smoke. Most people start smoking when they're young, and I don't think they're going to think about the effects,” said 27-year-old Zak Hoffman, who has been smoking since age 14. □

Lung infections kill 4.25 million a year: report

WASHINGTON — Respiratory infections such as influenza and other causes of pneumonia kill 4.25 million people every year, many of them young children, according to a report released on Tuesday.

These infections account for 6 percent of all deaths globally, the World Lung Foundation said in releasing its Acute Respiratory Infections Atlas.

“We know that at least 4 million people die from acute respiratory infections, yet the global health community does not even recognize them as a distinct disease group,” said Peter Baldini, chief executive officer of the World Lung Foundation.

The foundation hopes to convince governments and donors to look at respiratory deaths as a group. “With relatively modest resources, the means are available to save millions of lives. We simply need commitment, sound policy, and strategic investment,” Baldini said in a statement.

The report, available at <http://ARIAtlas.org>, shows people in the world's poorest countries are far more likely to die from such infections.

The death rate from pneumonia is 215 times higher in low-income countries than in high-income countries, for example.

A virus called respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, is the most common source of severe respiratory illness in children, the survey found, killing at least 66,000 children a year and possibly as many as 199,000.

It found 3 million RSV hospitalizations every year and 33 million cases of RSV in 2005.

There is no vaccine and no good treatment for RSV.

The report also finds that pneumonia accounts for 20 percent of all child deaths globally, or 1.6 million deaths in 2008, compared to 732,000 children who died from malaria and 200,000 who died from the AIDS virus.

There are 156 million new cases of pneumonia each year, 97 percent of them in developing countries.

A course of antibiotics to treat bacterial causes of pneumonia costs just 27 cents. Treating all children who need them with antibiotics could save as many as 600,000 every year, the foundation said. □

G20 Leaders Must Renew Their Commitment to Global Development


Kofi Annan

Ahead of today's G20 Summit in South Korea, two issues stand out for those of us who take an interest in international development. First, the concepts of fairness, balance, and the common good have experienced a welcome renaissance as world leaders have had to remind each other of these universal principles to avoid a potentially devastating escalation of their disagreements on currency values and trade imbalances. Second, while it remains to be seen to what extent it will help to bring countries' contending economic strategies into line, this rediscovery of basic values comes just as the G20 is beginning to include international development issues in its deliberations. Naturally, it is my profound hope that the principles of fairness, balance and the common good which have become so popular with G20 leaders lately will also inform these discussions -- and not only those on issues like undervalued currencies, lopsided trade statistics or skewed consumption patterns however important they may be. Unfortunately, the signs are decidedly mixed. On the one hand, the global repercussions of the financial and economic crises have clearly nourished an understanding of the true extent and consequences of our interdependence. At least for a moment, there seems to have been a consensus that a world that restricts the benefits of globalization to a few at the expense of many is neither fair nor stable; that one cannot address trade imbalances without addressing the development imbalances that underlie them; and that it is in everyone's interest to see the developing world graduate out of instability and economic dependence as soon as possible.


However, all these realizations have not yet led to the fundamentally different policies that are so urgently needed. In fact, in many G20 countries the crises, and particularly their effects on the world's poor, appear already all but forgotten and business and politics have resumed with little regard to the damage caused, the trust destroyed, and the lessons learned. Several G20 members have even used the economic upheavals as an excuse to tighten protectionist policies in direct contrast to their repeated pledges to keep markets open. As so often, developing countries have been among the primary victims. This is deeply unfortunate as, in my view, the G20 states, both individually and collectively, are the natural drivers of development. They are, by definition, the countries with the capacity, resources, influence and, thus, the moral obligation and responsibility to help those less fortunate. Many of them have only recently graduated into major economies and their developmental experiences are still fresh. These countries understand that the key to development is not charity but equitable, job creating, and ideally green

economic growth fueled by investment in the productive sectors, agriculture, infrastructure, renewable energy, trade, knowledge and technical skills. They also appreciate that the most important sources of development finance must be domestic revenues and private sector investment and that aid's main value other than in meeting urgent humanitarian needs, is to increase capacities, reduce dependence upon external support, and to lubricate and leverage investment in the sources of growth and good governance. It is thus encouraging that the development agenda proposed by the South Korean presidency speaks as much to these realities as to a new sense of partnership and genuine mutual accountability. The document, as far as it is known, covers all the right points, including the unblocking of existing initiatives and the need to complement the efforts of other actors such as the G8, the G77 and, of course, the United Nations. If the leaders assembled in Seoul decide to take it on with the same universal values in mind that they now invoke in the areas of trade and exchange rates, we will have gained much.

Having said all this, the implementation of the valuable ideas entailed in the Korean proposal should not be made dependent on the G20 taking them on as a group. While a renewed commitment to development by the world's most powerful group would certainly be a major step in the right direction and send an important political signal to developing countries, it is of course not enough on its own to overcome the immense challenges that these countries face. Nor does it necessarily invalidate some of the concerns raised regarding the G20's legitimacy and capacity. What really counts is that each member of the group internalizes the concepts of fairness, balance, and the common good and adapts its behaviour accordingly. If the G20 setup can help them do so by playing to its unquestionable strengths of composition, reach and sheer economic prowess, this will be all the better and should not only be welcomed, but encouraged. □



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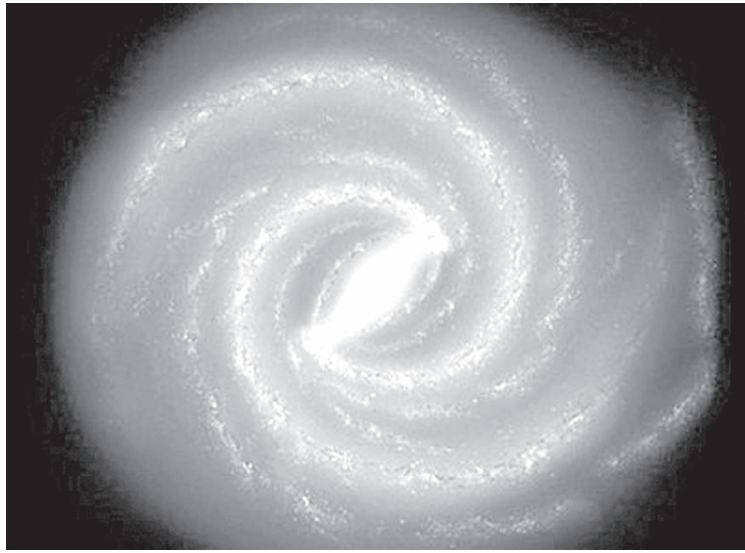
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Huge Bubbles Found at Milky Way's Heart Could Signal a Black Hole Eruption



This NASA handout image shows an artist's concept of the Milky Way. Two huge, unexplained gamma ray emitting bubbles have been discovered at the center of the Milky Way galaxy, US astronomers said Tuesday

Mike Wall

Scientists have detected two gigantic bubbles of high-energy radiation spilling out from the Milky Way's center that may have erupted from a supermassive black hole.

The mysterious structures each span 25,000 light-years across, and are emitting gamma rays, the highest-energy wavelength of light.

The bulbous features may be evidence of a burst of star formation a few million years ago, researchers said. Or they may have been produced when a supermassive black hole in the center of our galaxy gobbled up a bunch of gas and dust.

The newly discovered structures remain an enigma for now, scientists said.

"We don't fully understand their nature or origin," said study leader Doug Finkbeiner

of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

Scanning the gamma ray sky Finkbeiner and his team used observations from NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope, which maps the sky's gamma-ray light. The scientists processed data from Fermi's Large Area Telescope, the highest-resolution gamma-ray detector ever launched.

By filtering out the fog of background gamma rays suffusing the sky, the researchers were able to pick out the huge bubbles. The scientists weren't flying blind; previous studies by other astronomers using other instruments had found intriguing clues that a huge, previously unknown structure might be lurking near the Milky Way's heart.

"We were definitely looking for something," Finkbeiner

told reporters today (Nov. 9). "Some hints of this signal had been seen before, but not convincingly."

The two bubbles are dramatic, enigmatic and huge. They're emitting about the same amount of energy as 100,000 exploding stars, or supernovae, Finkbeiner said.

The structures extend as far as the distance between our solar system and the galaxy's core (the bubbles don't envelop Earth; they spread out in a different plane).

A paper about the findings will be published in an upcoming issue of The Astrophysical Journal.

Possible causes Researchers aren't yet sure what created the bubbles.

But the structures appear to have sharp, well-defined edges, suggesting they were formed by a large, rapid and relatively recent release of energy.

Two leading candidate causes, according to Finkbeiner, are a surge of star formation several million years ago and a burst of activity by the Milky Way's central black hole, which is as massive as four million suns. Astronomers have observed powerful jets blasting from the supermassive black holes in other galaxies. These jets are fueled by matter falling into the black hole.

"These monsters, once fed, can produce very powerful explosions," said David Spergel, chair of Princeton

University's astrophysics department.

While there is no evidence the Milky Way's black hole has such jets today, it may have in the past, researchers said.

"This might be the first evidence for an outburst of activity of the black hole at the center of the galaxy," Finkbeiner said.

Scientists are now conducting more analyses to get a better handle on just what drives the newly discovered bubbles, and what they can reveal about the nature of the Milky Way and the universe. "Whatever the energy source behind these huge bubbles may be, it is connected to many deep questions in astrophysics," Spergel said. □

Gonad greatness: bushcricket has record testicles



Handout photo released on November 8 by the Royal Society shows behavioural ecologist at Britain's University of Derby Karim Vahed shows a particular type of bushcricket that has the biggest testes in relation to body mass in relation to any creature on the globe. The tuberous bushcricket (*Platycleis affinis*) has testes that amount to 14 percent of its body mass.

PARIS – A species of cricket to its body weight of any has the largest testes in relation known creature in the world,

stunned scientists reported on Wednesday.

The tuberous bushcricket (*Platycleis affinis*) has testes that amount to 13.8 percent of its body mass -- the rough equivalent of a man hauling around tyre-sized testicles weighing 10 kilos (22 pounds).

"We couldn't believe the size of these organs. They seemed to fill the entire abdomen," said Karim Vahed, a behavioural ecologist at Britain's University of Derby. The tuberous bushcricket beat all rivals in a testicular comparison of 21 species of bushcrickets, also known in North America as katydids.

But for all its gonad grandstanding, the insect did not produce more sperm per ejaculate than others, and this offers an intriguing challenge to evolutionary theory.

Testes tend to be larger in species where females are more promiscuous.

The assumption behind this is that the male which produces the most sperm has an advantage over his rivals in love.

But the tuberous bushcricket may cause this theory to be revisited, say the authors.

Its large reserves of sperm enable it to ejaculate, in tiny amounts, with a bigger number of females, thus boosting its chances of reproductive success. □

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La Cuadra Venezolana – Intérprete de la nueva música venezolana



José Ángel Escalona

A petición de muchas personas de habla español continuamos hoy a publicar hoy algo sobre el grupo La Cuadra Venezolana que dará un concierto a beneficio de la fundación de becas, Aruba Scholarship Foundation, el 22 de noviembre en el Crystal Theatre de la Renaissance. Hoy presentamos resúmenes curriculares de la señora Nicaulis Alliey, flautista y del señor José Ángel Escalona, violín y mandolín de La Cuadra Venezolana

Nicaulis Alliey

Realiza sus estudios musicales en el Conservatorio “José Luis Paz” de Maracaibo y en la Escuela de Música “José Reyna” de Caracas, de las que egresa en 1992 y 1993 respectivamente, obteniendo el título de Profesor Ejecutante. Habiendo ganado una beca viaja a París, donde realiza su especialización con el Mto. Raymond Guiot y gana por unanimidad del jurado el 1er. Premio de la Villa de París, en 1994. En su haber cuenta con una Maitrise en Musique en la Universidad de París-Sorbona, siendo además primera flauta de la Orquesta Internacional de París. Desde

1994 se ha desempeñado como profesora de flauta en diversas instituciones y festivales dentro y fuera de Venezuela (Francia y Colombia), y ha participado en clases magistrales y talleres en Francia, Canadá y Venezuela. En junio de 2000 gana el Primer Premio en el Concurso Latinoamericano de Flauta. Ha realizado recitales y conciertos en diversos escenarios, y ha sido flauta asistente en la Orquesta Sinfónica de Lara, profesora de flauta de la Universidad de Los Andes (Mérida – Venezuela) y directora académica del Festival y Academia del Nuevo Mundo. Actualmente es Flauta Principal de la Orquesta Sinfónica de Maracaibo, Directora fundadora de la Escuela de Música de la Facultad Experimental de Arte de La Universidad del Zulia y flautista de La Cuadra Venezolana.

José Ángel Escalona

Violín y mandolina de la cuadra venezolana. Inicia sus estudios musicales con la Orquesta El Tocuyo, los cuales continua en el Conservatorio Regional de Música “Jacinto Lara” de Barquisimeto,

donde además profundiza en el estudio teórico de la música y en la música de cámara.

Entre 1994 y 1999 cursa estudios de violín en la cátedra del destacado violinista venezolano Williams Naranjo, además de participar en talleres, cursos y clases magistrales dictadas por los profesores Ana Beatriz Manzanilla, Williams Naranjo, Pablo Vásquez, Jean Claude Gérard y Georg Egger, éstos últimos de la Bachakademie de Stuttgart, también con la violinista Tatiana Berkul del Cuarteto de Moscú, Gerardo Vila de Argentina.

Ha formado parte de la Orquesta Juvenil de El Tocuyo, Orquesta Sinfónica Juvenil de Lara –de la cual fue concertino-, Orquesta Sinfónica de Lara, con quien participa en giras internacionales a Francia y España. Es miembro fundador de la Camerata Alma de Venezuela y, desde 1998 forma parte de la Orquesta Sinfónica de Maracaibo, a lo que se une su labor pedagógica en el sistema de orquestas infantiles y juveniles de Venezuela, así como a través



Nicaulis Alliey

de la coordinación de la masterclass en el Festival Academia del Festival del Internacional de Música de Nuevo Mundo. Es tallerista de Medellín (Colombia, 2003), habitual de su especialidad y ha realizado presentaciones en Venezuela, por lo que como solista y camerista en ha sido invitado a dictar diversas salas del país. □

Estadounidense Berenson teme regresar a cárcel en Perú

LIMA (Reuters) - La estadounidense Lori Berenson, condenada por colaborar con un grupo rebelde peruano, dijo el martes que ya no avala la violencia como un medio para cambiar la sociedad y expresó temor a que presiones políticas la envíen nuevamente a la cárcel. Berenson, a quien la justicia peruana concedió el viernes libertad condicional por segunda ocasión tras cumplir con tres cuartos de su condena de 20 años, afirmó que ha sido duro adaptarse a su libertad. “Ha sido mucho más difícil de lo que pensé, difícil por muchas razones, principalmente la situación detrás del caso, hay mucha política envuelta y ha sido duro hacer las cosas (...) ha habido muchas protestas”, dijo Berenson en una inusual entrevista con Reuters. La liberación condicional de Berenson, que fue apelada por los abogados del Estado peruano,

despertó un fuerte rechazo en el país, que durante dos décadas sufrió una lucha interna con coches bomba casi a diario y que dejó unos 69.000 muertos y desaparecidos, según cifras oficiales.

“Comprendo que hay mucha gente que me odia, a las que les gustaría verme muerta, no es fácil lidiar con una situación así, pero la entiendo”, afirmó.

Berenson, condenada por colaborar con el Movimiento Revolucionario Túpac Amaru (MRTA) -que junto al maoísta Sendero Luminoso pusieron en jaque al Estado peruano-, recibió por primera vez la libertad condicional a fines de mayo.

Sin embargo, el fallo fue apelado y la mujer debió regresar a prisión en agosto. Por eso teme que la controversia que ha despertado su caso le signifique volver a la cárcel. □



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